PREVIEW ISSUE: Pacquiao-Margarito • Haye-Harrison • Marquez-Katsidis

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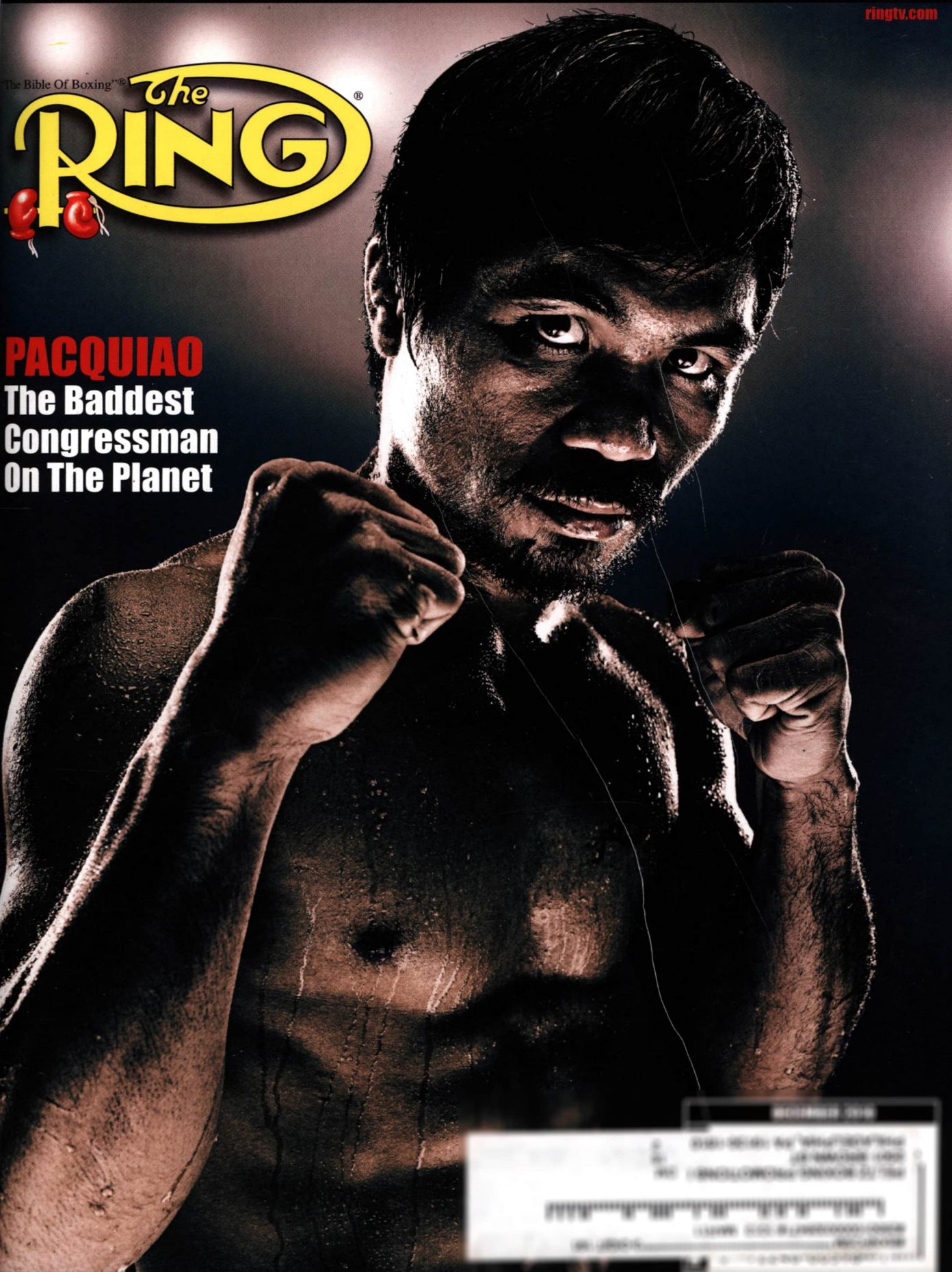

PACQUIAO
The Baddest Congressman On The Planet

POR LOS QUE SE ATREVEN A SUBIR AL RING

CON CARÁCTER

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Volume 89, No. 13 December 2010

The RING

Finishing Flurry

Like many of its great champions, boxing frequently saves itself by rallying in the late rounds, which certainly seems to be the case as 2010 enters the final months of the year. Although what appears to be an outstanding match going in doesn't always turn out that way after the opening bell rings, there are enough mouth-watering entrées on the pugilistic menu to appease even the most discerning fistic gourmet.

A trio of intriguing bouts—Manny Pacquiao-Antonio Margarito, David Haye-Audley Harrison, Juan Manuel Marquez-Michael Katsidis—are extensively previewed in this issue. All three possess the potential to provide bristling action, but the lightweight championship fight between Marquez and Katsidis just might turn out to be the one we will still be buzzing about this time next year.

Another much-anticipated showdown on the immediate horizon is the rematch between Sergio Martinez and Paul Williams. Their first encounter, won by Williams via majority decision in December 2009, was a hotly contested display of skills and guts, with both men climbing off the canvas to deliver a riveting fight. The stakes are even higher this time because Martinez has subsequently won the world middleweight championship, so we can expect another all-out effort from both men.

As if all of the above isn't enough, the Rafael Marquez-Juan Manuel Lopez fight is also right around the corner. "JuanMa" is one of the sport's brightest young stars, but never before has he faced a foe with Marquez' credentials. Expect fireworks.

Adding to the bountiful year-end stretch drive are three more laudable cards, which THE RING will preview in the January issue: the Amir Kahn-Marcos Maidana junior welterweight blockbuster, the launch of Showtime's fun-filled bantamweight tournament, and Bernard Hopkins' bid to regain the light heavyweight championship against Jean Pascal. The latter fight has tremendous historical importance because should Hopkins win, he will become the oldest boxer, in any weigh class, to win a world championship.

While much of the blame for a relatively mundane year has been heaped on the failure of the sport's powerbrokers to produce a Manny Pacquiao-Floyd Mayweather match, the creative matchmaking that highlights the balance of 2010 proves that the health of the Sweet Science is never dependent on a single fight—even if those with a myopic view of the sport would have you believe otherwise.

◆◆◆

The last time I spoke to Ricky Hatton, he was slumped in a chair in his dressing room, shortly after his devastating knockout loss to Manny Pacquiao. The lights were on, but nobody was home, so I voiced a few encouraging words and took my leave. On the way out, I encountered his mother, who was crying softly, her face a mask of anxiety.

"Don't worry; he's okay," I told her, and, at the time, I believed what I said. Quick knockouts seldom inflict serious injury. It's the grueling wars of attrition that usually lead to permanent damage.

Now we know that Ricky wasn't okay. He survived the physical ordeal intact but was emotionally devastated.

Hatton has entered rehab, the first step to recovery. If he battles as hard to get his life back together as he always did inside the boxing ring, Ricky has a great chance of beating his demons. A sportswriter must always strive to be impartial, but, in this case, I don't mind admitting that I'm rooting for Hatton to emerge victorious from what will undoubtedly be the toughest fight of his life.

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[Opening Shot]

Accurate Adage

The "it's better to give than receive" maxim is seldom more appropriate than when participating in a boxing match. Still, Orlando Salido, the recipient of this left hook thrown by Yuriorkis Gamboa, was undoubtedly grateful that the Cuban knockout artist wasn't a step closer when he unleashed the punch. Had it landed full-force, it is unlikely Salido would have been around to hear the unanimous decision in Gamboa's favor rendered at the conclusion of their 12-rounder.

PHOTO BY NAOKI FUKUDA

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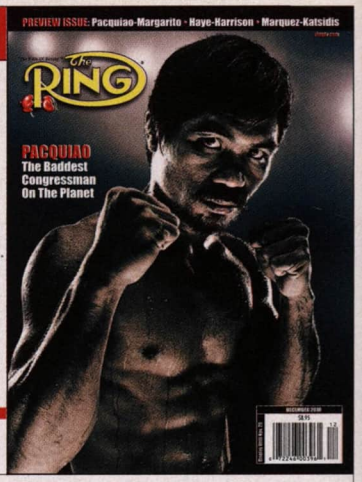

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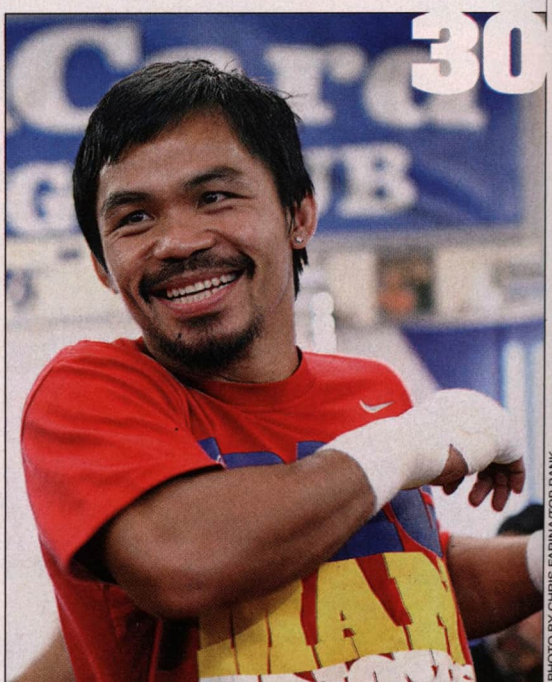

PHOTO BY CHRIS FARINA/TOP RANK

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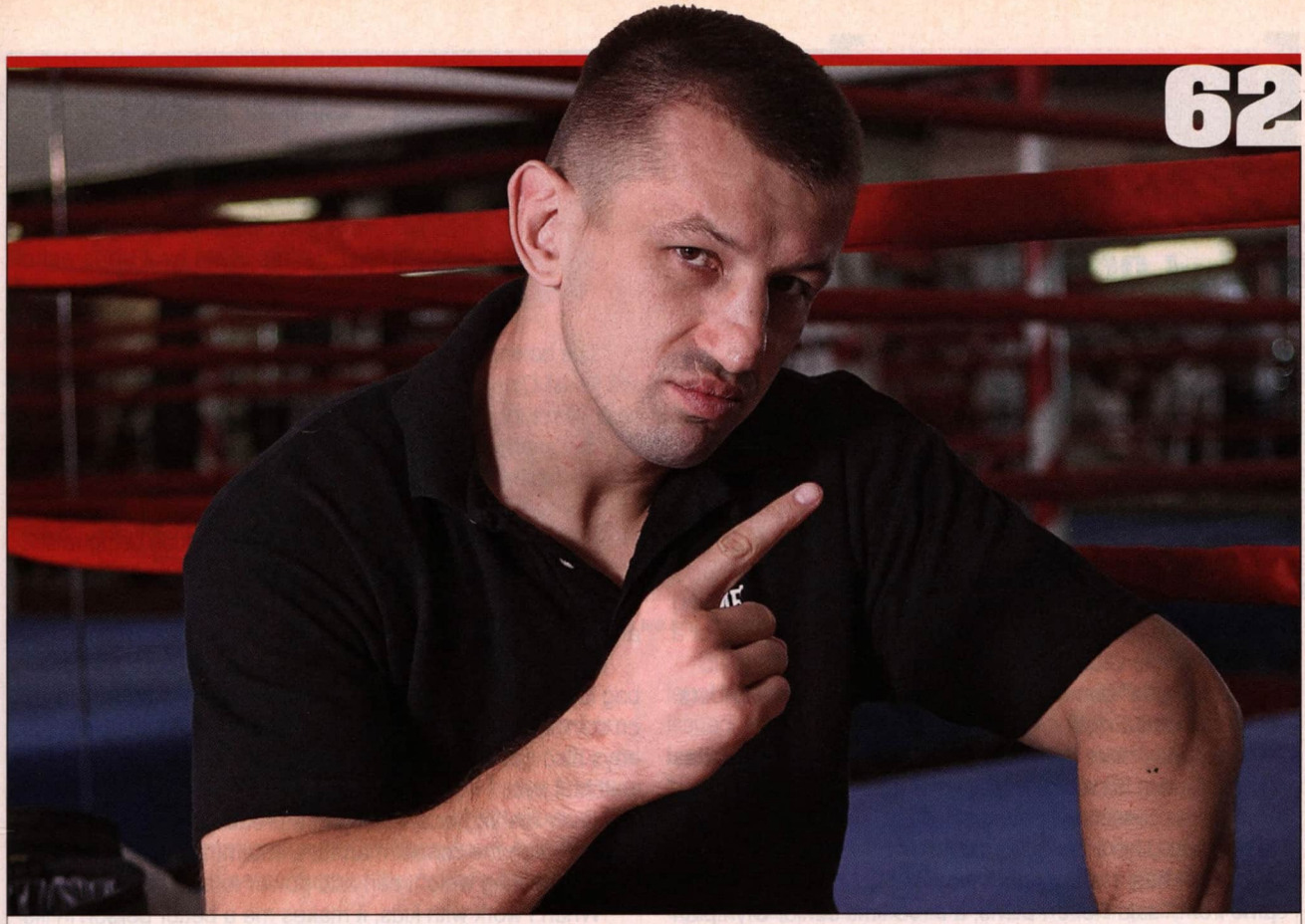

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PHOTO BY ED MULHOLLAND/FIGHTWIRE IMAGES

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Cloud Of Sunshine

"Let's give the gorilla growl, everybody," and, with those words, Tavoris Cloud and a half-dozen young boxers flexed their arms and growled at the camera. "When I am in training, I'm looking for that perfect weight. When I hit it, I'm excited and the adrenaline starts pumping like a gorilla before an attack. I like to scare my opponent."

For the next two hours, the reigning IBF light heavyweight titleholder shared life lessons and some practical punching skills with the next generation of boxers. Boys jockeyed for a position next to Cloud and a chance to touch his IBF belt.

"He's ripped" commented 14-year-old Wheeler Landers. "Look at those arms."

Cloud may have a title belt around his waist, but he has never forgotten his roots. The 28-year-old boxer is that one-in-a-million success story, but he still calls Tallahassee, Florida, his home and his coach, Alonzo Johnson, his guiding force.

"He still has ties to his hometown. He realizes where he came from," said Robert Davis, a three-time Junior Olympian and former sparring partner.

Growing up on what some would call the mean streets of Tallahassee, Cloud admits throwing punches in a ring hardly compares to his former hard-knock life.

"The boxing center saved my life; it was like a hospital for me," said Cloud. "The doors were always open. I wouldn't be who I am today without it."

That's why Cloud, even while doing double duty as a father and toting his five-year-old daughter, willingly donates his time for sessions with local kids. Although the gym is open to all, most of these pint-size boxers are at-risk kids being raised by single parents or grandparents. Cloud hopes he can help them avoid some of life's pitfalls and maybe even turn a life around through boxing.

Fourteen-year-old Justin Maul was singled out for a heavy-bag lesson. He and 10-year-old Jalen McClees were coached on stance and how to properly throw a punch. Two lucky older boys also got a chance to show off their skills under Cloud's watchful eye.

Never rushing or speaking in a preachy tone, he took the boys through the correct maneuvers, turning them and showing how shifting weight can add power to a punch.

"When I work with kids, it makes me a better person in life and in the ring" said Cloud.

Undoubtedly, the kids at the Lincoln Boxing Center would readily agree.

—Pam Foster

PHOTO BY GINA WEAVER

Cloud gives hometown kids a few pointers

The Final Nail?

A recent series of events have significantly reduced the chances of a superfight between Manny Pacquiao and Floyd Mayweather. The knockout blow may have come in late September when Mayweather's promoter, Golden Boy Promotions, sued Pacquaio's promoter, Top Rank, its chairman Bob Arum, and financial officer David Lopez.

According to ESPN.com, which obtained a copy of the 23-page lawsuit, Golden Boy has accused Top Rank of purposely trying to hide millions of dollars generated from three Pacquiao fights.

Arum has denied the allegations.

The issue goes back to 2006 when Pacquiao signed promotional contracts with both Top Rank and Golden Boy. In order to avoid a lengthy and expensive legal battle, the two companies reached a settlement in 2007, which allowed Top Rank to retain promotional rights to Pacquiao, while Golden Boy would receive a percentage of the profits whenever Pacquiao fought.

PHOTO BY ETHAN MILLER/GETTY IMAGES

Will it be a long time before we see Mayweather in the ring again?

Even before this latest development, Mayweather was in legal hot water. On September 10, a warrant for his arrest was issued, stemming from an alleged incident that occurred at his Las Vegas home. According to the arrest report, Mayweather became angry with 30-year-old Josie Harris, the mother of three of his children, which led to an altercation.

In both her statement to the police and the account Harris provided to obtain a Clark County Family Court protection order against Mayweather, she said that the boxer grabbed her by

Golden Boy CEO Richard Schaefer (far left) and Oscar De La Hoya in court battle with Arum (far right) over Pacquiao money

PHOTO BY MARTY ROSENGARTEN

her hair, hit her, and twisted her arm while yelling that he would kill her. Moreover, one of Mayweather's sons told police he saw his father hitting and kicking Harris. The son also told police that Mayweather took phones from him and his mother.

Originally, Mayweather was charged with grand larceny over the missing phones, and he was freed on bail after turning himself in to the police. However, on September 16, Clark County District Attorney David Rogers added two felony coercion changes, one felony robbery charge, as well as one misdemeanor domestic battery and three misdemeanor harassment charges. According to Associated Press reports, Mayweather could face a 34-year sentence if convicted on all charges.

Mayweather's reputation was already on the ropes prior to the arrest due to an inflammatory, self-made video he posted on the Internet, aimed at Pacquiao. Among those offended was the National Federation of Filipino American Association, which issued a statement that, in part, read: "This disgusting diatribe against Pacquiao is a racial slur against all Filipinos and Filipino Americans and an embarrassment not only to the boxing community, but to all Americans."

Adding to an already complicated situation is the fact that Mayweather's uncle/trainer, Roger Mayweather, is also facing a possible prison sentence stemming from a scuffle with female boxer Melissa St. Vi, who alleges the 48-year-old Mayweather punched and choked her. Mayweather has pleaded not guilty. His trial was scheduled to begin on October 25.

It would appear extremely unlikely that a Pacquiao-Mayweather match could be made until these various legal matters have worked their way through the court system, which could take months, perhaps years. Meanwhile, boxing will have to survive without what could possibly have been the richest fight in history.

—Nigel Collins

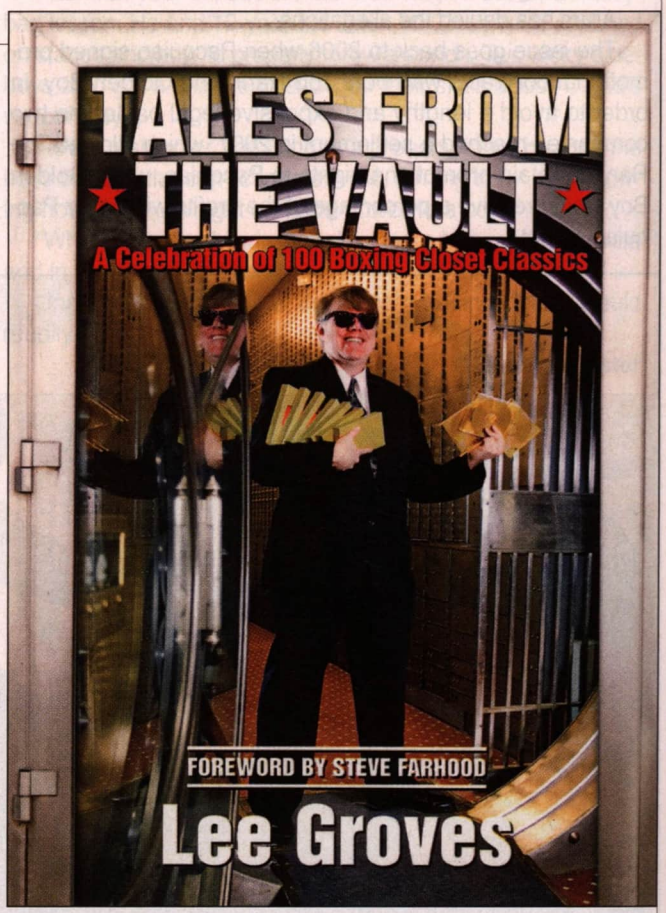
Boxing Bookshelf

Lee Groves' *Tales From The Vault: A Celebration Of 100 Boxing Closet Classics* (CreateSpace, 721 pages, paperback, $25.95) is not a book one reads from beginning to end. It's a book you keep on the shelf, take down periodically to refresh your memory of some forgotten featherweight fight from 1993, and then return to its slot. Thus, it's a hard book to review.

The book is a collection of lengthy fight reports divided neatly into sections: grudge matches, comebacks, brawls, upsets, etc. It's a healthy, tasteful anthology, but nearly as interesting as the book's content was the book's journey to publication. Groves initially proposed *Tales From The Vault* the traditional way, with an agent trying to attract the attention of publishers, but, as most boxing writers will tell you, books on boxing are a hard sell these days. After being turned down several times, Groves went the self-publishing route. The result is a 721-page omnibus, an unabashed labor of love that has to be seen to be believed. Groves appears on the cover, cradling an armful of VHS tapes and DVDs. He's also wearing a cocky grin, as if to say, "Look Ma, I published a book!" And he has every right to smile, for getting a book into the laps of readers is more difficult than landing a clean shot on Floyd Mayweather.

The hook for *Tales From The Vault* is that Groves, a CompuBox operator, provides punch stats for several fights that never had them. Groves' inclusion of some older fights from the 1950s is particularly inspired. If you put a lot of stock in statistics, then it might be intriguing to learn that Ezzard Charles landed 40 percent of his punches against Bob Satterfield in their 1954 slugfest. If stats aren't your thing, Groves happens to be a pretty good writer too. A former contributor to THE RING, Groves' recaps are colorful and informative. And if you've forgotten how entertaining fighters like Charles "The Hatchet" Brewer and Wilfredo Gomez were in their prime, you'll be reminded here.

In fact, *Tales From The Vault* works best as a nostalgia trip. The names that crop up—Jorge Paez, Aaron Pryor, Iran Barkley, John Mugabi, "Bazooka" Limon, Tony Lopez, Mike Weaver, Frankie Duarte, Pinklon Thomas, Julian Jackson—take you back to a time not so long ago when there were plenty of good fights to cover, even though boxing already was slipping from our local sports pages. In that way, *Tales From The Vault* is a treat.



—Don Stradley

Outside the Ropes

WBA junior welterweight titleholder **Amir Khan** flew to Pakistan in August to assist with disaster relief in the wake of the devastating floods that have killed more than 2,000 people and left millions homeless. "My parents came over from Pakistan. They were born there. I was born in England," Khan told fanhouse.com. "But still, I have my roots. I've got family there and plenty of relatives" ... Former heavyweight champion **Mike Tyson** and his wife, **Lakiha Spicer**, are expecting a baby boy early next year ... British super middleweight contender **Carl Froch** has pulled out of his scheduled October 2 bout with **Arthur Abraham**, citing a back injury. It is the latest blow to Showtime's "Super Six World Boxing Classic," which is sputtering following a series of good fights ... According to journalist **Joaquin Henson** of *The Philippine Star*, 38-year-old Filipino **Rustico Torrecampo**, who knocked out **Manny Pacquiao** in 1996, wants to launch a comeback in order to pay a 100,000 peso (approximately $2,269) settlement to the widow of a man the retired boxer stabbed to death in 2007. Torrecampo is currently free on bail and has brought his weight down from 130 to 118 pounds during three months of training ... According to spokesman **Max Clifford**, former junior welterweight world champion **Ricky Hatton**, 31, was admitted to a rehabilitation clinic in mid-September following British newspaper reports of cocaine use. Hatton was diagnosed with depression and a drinking problem. "The drugs are quite recent and not actually the problem," said Clifford. People close to Hatton had been concerned for some time, but, when the *News of the World* published photographs and a video of Hatton allegedly snorting cocaine, his personal problems became very public. "He feels he's let everybody that matters down badly, his friends, his family, his fans, and, of course, himself," said Clifford. "He's distraught about it, very upset, and very subdued." Despite a burgeoning career as a promoter, Hatton has had difficulty adjusting to life outside the ring. Although he has never officially retired, Hatton has not fought since he was knocked out by **Manny Pacquiao** on May 2, 2009. Hatton's father, **Ray Hatton**, spoke with Sky Sports News about his son's downfall: "With Ricky, he always wanted to please everybody—not just his family, but all the fans. When he had defeats, he just felt like he'd let them down, and he got more and more depressed, which led him to drink more and more." Greater Manchester police acknowledged that Hatton had voluntarily entered rehab and that the force will respect his privacy. Nonetheless, a police spokesman said, "Once his rehabilitation has been completed, officers will be speaking to Mr. Hatton about the allegations." In the meantime, the British Boxing Board of Control stripped Hatton of his boxing, training, and manager's licenses, but permitted him to retain his promoter's license. A statement issued by the BBB of C said, "The fact that Hatton Promotions is a large organization employing a number of experienced individuals in varying roles, including professional persons, and the effect upon innocent persons, including professional boxers, the board concluded that justice would not be served by withdrawing his promoter's license." Hatton was also fined the equivalent of $31,000 ... The body of **John Arum**, 49, the son of Hall of Fame promoter **Bob Arum**, was found on a mountainside in North Cascades National Park in Washington. It is believed that Arum fell to his death while attempting to climb the 8,500-foot Storm King Mountain ... Former Australian bantamweight and super bantamweight titleholder **Brian Roberts**, 57, died of a heart attack on September 12. Roberts turned pro in May 1972 and had his final fight in August '86, compiling an overall record of 37-29-7 (7) ... Former middleweight contender **Art Hernandez**, 69, died on August 26 in Omaha, Nebraska. Hernandez turned pro in January 1961 and tallied a 45-19-2 (13) record before retiring following his final fight, in July 1973. He is best remembered for fighting a 10-round draw with a then-43-year-old **Ray Robinson** in July '64. Top fighters Hernandez had beaten include **Denny Moyer**, **Isaac Logart**, **Stan Harrington**, **Nate Williams**, and **Gomeo Brennan**. "He was the best Nebraska fighter I ever saw," said former RING correspondent **Tom Lovgren**. After boxing, Hernandez became chief of security at Douglas County Hospital ... **Anthony M. Pastores**, a cadet at the Philippine Military Academy, died of head injuries, on August 21, following an amateur bout that took place less than two hours before his body was discovered.

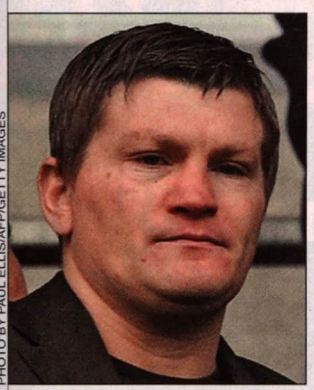
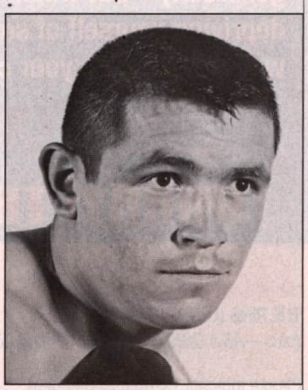


PHOTO BY PAUL ELLIS/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Hatton: Fighting personal demons



Hernandez: Dead at age 69

Quotable

"They have told me my brain looks like it's been in consecutive car crashes every day for the last eight years."

—Light heavyweight Paul Briggs admitting in an interview published in the Sydney Morning Herald *that he entered his July 21, 2010, bout with Danny Green, knowing he was suffering from brain damage.*

"Ricky will need support every step of the way as he fights through the murky haze of an unenviable predicament. Hatton has given us so much over the years, you have to wish him well."

—Tris Dixon, editor of the British weekly Boxing News, *writing about fallen hero Ricky Hatton.*

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Ratings Analysis

For Period Ended September 26, 2010

Heavyweights: No changes.
Cruiserweights: No changes.
Light Heavyweights: Nathan Cleverly (eighth last issue) rises to five after his ninth-round TKO over Karo Murat (sixth last issue). Cleverly's move pushes down everyone five to seven one notch each.
Super Middleweights: No changes.
Middleweights: Anthony Mundine (sixth last issue) departs to fight at junior middleweight. His exit allows everyone rated six and below to advance one place each and enables David Lopez to re-enter at 10.
Junior Middleweights: No changes.
Welterweights: After the draw with Sergio Mora, Shane Mosley (fourth last issue) trades places with Miguel Cotto (fifth last issue). Jan Zaveck (eighth last issue) advances to seven due to his victory over Rafal Jackiewicz (seventh last issue), who falls to nine. Viacheslav Senchenko (ninth last issue) moves up to eight, thanks to his win over Jose Navarro and the Jackiewicz loss.
Junior Welterweights: No changes.
Lightweights: Miguel Acosta (third last issue) moves to two, replacing Ali Funeka (second last issue), who drops to four. Humberto Soto (fourth last issue) moves to three, while Brandon Rios debuts at five after beating Anthony Peterson (fifth last issue), who falls to eight. John Murray (seventh last issue) exchanges places with Paulus Moses (sixth last issue) and Robert Guerrero (eighth last issue) departs, bumped out by Rios.
Junior Lightweights: Mzonke Fana (first last issue) remains on top after beating Cassius Baloyi (fourth last issue), who drops to 10. Ricky Burns debuts at two after upsetting Roman Martinez (second last issue), who falls to three. Malcolm Klassen (third last issue) exits due to inactivity. Klassen's departure pushes up Takashi Uchiyama (fifth last issue) to four. Jorge Solis (seventh last issue) climbs to five. The changes allow eight through 10 to move up one slot each.
Featherweights: Major changes as Steven Luevano (fifth last issue) retires, replaced at five by Daniel Ponce De Leon (eighth last issue), who rises after making easy work of Antonio Escalante. Yuriorkis Gamboa (sixth last issue) surges to three, bumping down Orlando Salido (third last issue) to four. The juggling pushes down Cristobal Cruz (fourth last issue) to six. With Ponce De Leon advancing, Bernabe Concepcion (ninth last issue) and Rafael Marquez (10th last issue) move up one place each, making room at 10 for veteran Jhonny Gonzalez.
Junior Featherweights: No changes.
Bantamweights: No changes.
Junior Bantamweights: Tomas Rojas enters at five, thanks to his decision victory over Kohei Kono (fifth last issue), who drops to six. Daigo Nakahiro (sixth last issue) exits due to inactivity, and former flyweight Cesar Seda moves up to replace the departed Malik Bouzine at 10 based on quality of opposition.
Flyweights: Cesar Seda (ninth last issue) departs to fight at junior bantamweight. Zolani Tete (eighth last issues) also exits after being stopped by Moruti Mthalane (currently seventh). This allows Julio Cesar Miranda (10th last issue) to jump two slots and makes room for Rocky Fuentes to debut at nine and undefeated Milan Melindo to enter at 10.
Junior Flyweights: Giovanni Segura (first last issue) becomes the new world champion after he vanquished former champion Ivan Calderon, who drops to one. Other major changes in the division include Edgar Sosa (fourth last issue) leaving to campaign at flyweight. Sosa's departure allows everyone rated five and below to move up one place each. Johnriel Casimero, whose one loss was a split-decision to Ramon Hirales (currently ninth), enters at 10.
Strawweights: Previously unrated Denver Cuello debuts at eight after stopping Muhammad Rachman (eighth last issue), who exits. Michael Landero also enters the ratings, replacing the man he beat at 10, the departing Yasutaka Kuroki.
Pound-for-Pound: Shane Mosley (fifth last issue) falls out of the pound-for-pound ratings after his mundane 12-round draw against Sergio Mora. Mosley's departure allows Tim Bradley to debut at 10, and also bumps up everyone who was rated six and below one spot each.

The RING
"The Bible Of Boxing"

Pound-For-Pound

1. **Manny Pacquiao**
   Welterweight
2. **Floyd Mayweather**
   Welterweight
3. **Juan Manuel Marquez**
   Lightweight
4. **Nonito Donaire**
   Junior Bantamweight
5. **Paul Williams**
   Middleweight
6. **Sergio Martinez**
   Junior Middleweight/Middleweight
7. **Pongsaklek Wonjongkam**
   Flyweight
8. **Fernando Montiel**
   Bantamweight
9. **Wladimir Klitschko**
   Heavyweight
10. **Timothy Bradley**
    Junior Welterweight/Welterweight

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[The Ring Ratings]

For Period Ended September 26, 2010

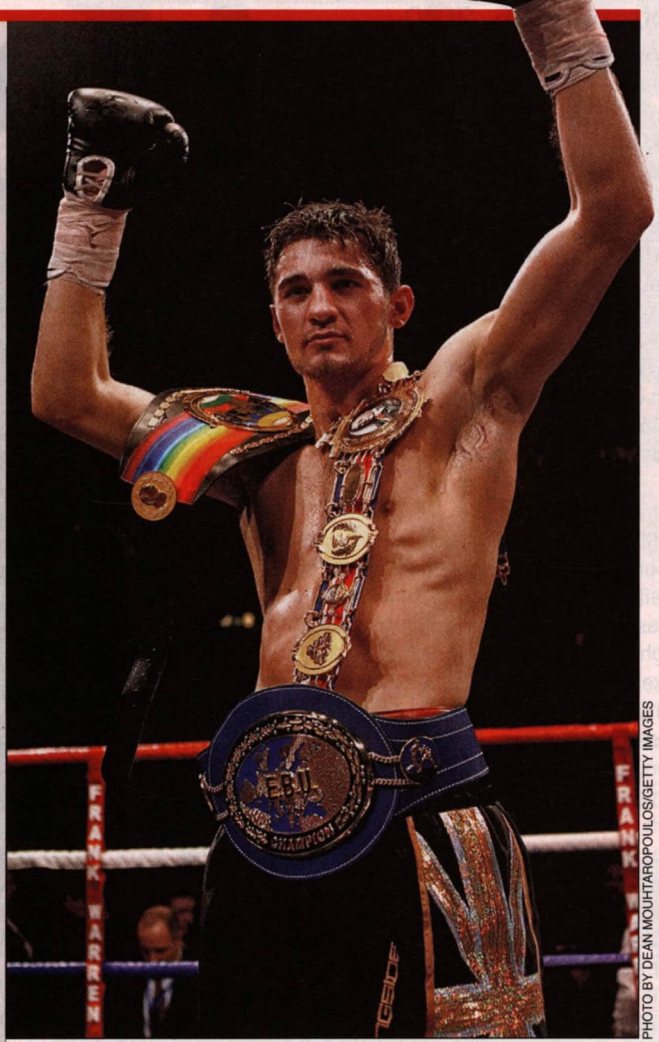


PHOTO BY DEAN MOUHTAROPOULOS/GETTY IMAGES

Nathan Cleverly leaps two spots to number five at light heavy after stopping Karo Murat

How Our Ratings Are Compiled

Fighters recognized as champions by THE RING are rated at the top of their division, with the top 10 contenders listed below.

Championship vacancies can be filled by winning a box-off between THE RING's number-one and number-two contenders, or, in certain instances, a box-off between our number-one and number-three contenders.

The only three occasions when a fighter will lose his championship status are when he retires, moves to another weight division, or is defeated in a championship bout.

THE RING Ratings are compiled by the magazine's editorial board, with the participation of THE RING Ratings Panel of boxing journalists from around the world. To see the complete list of our panelists, click on "Ratings" at ringtv.com.

Records provided by boxrec.com.

Heavyweights

Weight Unlimited

Champ: WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO
Ukraine 55-3 (49)

1. **VITALI KLITSCHKO**
Ukraine 40-2 (38)
2. **DAVID HAYE**
England 24-1 (22)
3. **ALEXANDER POVETKIN**
Russia 19-0 (14)
4. **TOMASZ ADAMEK**
Poland 42-1 (27)
5. **RUSLAN CHAGAEV**
Uzbekistan 26-1-1 (17)
6. **EDDIE CHAMBERS**
Philadelphia, PA 35-2 (18)
7. **DENIS BOYTSOV**
Russia 27-0 (22)
8. **NICOLAY VALUEV**
Russia 50-2 (34)
9. **ALEXANDER DIMITRENKO**
Ukraine 30-1 (20)
10. **CHRIS ARREOLA**
Riverside, CA 29-2 (25)

Jr. Middleweights

Weight Limit: 154 pounds

Champ: Vacant

1. **SERGIO MARTINEZ**
Argentina 45-2-2 (24)
2. **KERMIT CINTRON**
Reading, PA 32-3-1 (28)
3. **ALFREDO ANGULO**
Mexico 19-1 (16)
4. **MIGUEL COTTO**
Puerto Rico 35-2 (28)
5. **RYAN RHODES**
England 44-4 (30)
6. **SECHEW POWELL**
Brooklyn, NY 26-2 (15)
7. **YURI FOREMAN**
Belarus 28-1 (8)
8. **VANES MARTIROSYAN**
Armenia 28-0 (17)
9. **SERGIY DZINZIRUK**
Ukraine 37-0 (23)
10. **CORNELIUS BUNDRAGE**
Detroit, MI 30-4 (18)

Featherweights

Weight Limit: 126 pounds

Champ: Vacant

1. **CHRIS JOHN**
Indonesia 43-0-2 (22)
2. **JUAN MANUEL LOPEZ**
Puerto Rico 29-0 (26)
3. **YURIORKIS GAMBOA**
Cuba 19-0 (15)
4. **ORLANDO SALIDO**
Mexico 34-11-2 (22)
5. **DANIEL PONCE DE LEON**
Mexico 40-2 (33)
6. **CRISTOBAL CRUZ**
Mexico 39-12-2 (23)
7. **ELIO ROJAS**
Dominican Republic 22-1 (13)
8. **BERNABE CONCEPCION**
Philippines 28-4-1 (15)
9. **RAFAEL MARQUEZ**
Mexico 39-5 (35)
10. **JHONNY GONZALEZ**
Mexico 46-7 (40)

Jr. Featherweights

Weight Limit: 122 pounds

Champ: Vacant

1. **POONSAWAT KRATINGDAENGGYM**
Thailand 41-1 (29)
2. **TOSHIAKI NISHIOKA**
Japan 36-4-3 (23)
3. **STEVE MOLITOR**
Canada 33-1 (12)
4. **RICARDO CORDOBA**
Panama 37-2-2 (23)
5. **JEFF MATHEBULA**
South Africa 23-2-2 (13)
6. **RENDALL MUNROE**
England 21-1 (9)
7. **SATOSHI HOSONO**
Japan 16-1 (12)
8. **WILFREDO VAZQUEZ JR.**
Puerto Rico 19-0-1 (16)
9. **MASAAKI SERIE**
Japan 15-4 (6)
10. **AKIFUMI SHIMODA**
Japan 21-2-1 (10)

Bantamweights

Weight Limit: 118 pounds

Champ: Vacant

1. **FERNANDO MONTIEL**
Mexico 42-3-1 (32)
2. **ANSELMO MORENO**
Panama 30-1-1 (10)
3. **HOZUMI HASEGAWA**
Japan 28-3 (12)
4. **YONNHY PEREZ**
Colombia 20-0-1 (14)
5. **ABNER MARES**
Mexico 20-0-1 (13)
6. **JOSEPH AGBEKO**
Ghana 27-2 (22)
7. **NEHOMAR CERMENO**
Venezuela 19-2 (11)
8. **SASHA BAKHTIN**
Russia 25-0 (11)
9. **ERIC MOREL**
Madison, WI 42-2 (21)
10. **MICHAEL DOMINGO**
Philippines 40-14-2 (18)

Cruiserweights

Weight Limit: 200 pounds

Champ: Vacant

1. **STEVE CUNNINGHAM**
   Philadelphia, PA 23-2 (12)
2. **MARCO HUCK**
   Yugoslavia 30-1 (23)
3. **KRZYSZTOF WLODARCZYK**
   Poland 44-2-1 (32)
4. **TROY ROSS**
   Canada 23-2 (16)
5. **ZSOLT ERDEI**
   Hungary 31-0 (17)
6. **DENIS LEBEDEV**
   Russia 21-0 (16)
7. **DANNY GREEN**
   Australia 30-3 (27)
8. **GIACOBBE FRAGOMENI**
   Italy 26-3-1 (10)
9. **OLA AFOLABI**
   England 14-2-3 (6)
10. **PAWEL KOLODZIEJ**
    Poland 26-0 (15)

Light Heavyweights

Weight Limit: 175 pounds

Champ: JEAN PASCAL
Haiti 26-1 (16)

1. **CHAD DAWSON**
   New Haven, CT 29-1 (17)
2. **TAVORIS CLOUD**
   Tallahassee, FL 21-0 (18)
3. **GLEN JOHNSON**
   Jamaica 50-14-2 (34)
4. **BERNARD HOPKINS**
   Philadelphia, PA 51-5-1 (32)
5. **NATHAN CLEVERLY**
   Wales 20-0 (10)
6. **ADRIAN DIACONU**
   Romania 26-2 (15)
7. **KARO MURAT**
   Iraq 22-1 (13)
8. **BEIBUT SHUMENOV**
   Kazakhstan 10-1 (6)
9. **CHRIS HENRY**
   Houston, TX 25-2 (20)
10. **GABRIEL CAMPILLO**
    Spain 20-3 (7)

Super Middleweights

Weight Limit: 168 pounds

Champ: Vacant

1. **LUCIAN BUTE**
   Romania 26-0 (21)
2. **ANDRE WARD**
   Oakland, CA 22-0 (13)
3. **MIKKEL KESSLER**
   Denmark 43-2 (32)
4. **CARL FROCH**
   England 26-1 (21)
5. **ANDRE DIRRELL**
   Flint, MI 19-1 (13)
6. **SAKIO BIKA**
   Cameroon 28-4-2 (19)
7. **ARTHUR ABRAHAM**
   Armenia 31-1 (25)
8. **ROBERT STIEGLITZ**
   Germany 38-2 (23)
9. **LIBRADO ANDRADE**
   Mexico 29-3 (22)
10. **BRIAN MAGEE**
    Northern Ireland 34-3-1 (24)

Middleweights

Weight Limit: 160 pounds

Champ: SERGIO MARTINEZ
Argentina 45-2-2 (24)

1. **FELIX STURM**
   Germany 34-2-1 (14)
2. **PAUL WILLIAMS**
   Augusta, GA 39-1 (27)
3. **KELLY PAVLIK**
   Youngstown, OH 36-2 (32)
4. **SEBASTIAN SYLVESTER**
   Germany 33-3-1 (16)
5. **MATTHEW MACKLIN**
   England 27-2 (19)
6. **DANIEL GEALE**
   Australia 22-1 (13)
7. **SEBASTIAN ZBIK**
   Germany 30-0 (10)
8. **ROMAN KARMAZIN**
   Russia 40-3-2 (26)
9. **DMITRY PIROG**
   Russia 17-0 (14)
10. **DAVID LOPEZ**
    Mexico 39-12 (23)

Welterweights

Weight Limit: 147 pounds

Champ: Vacant

1. **FLOYD MAYWEATHER**
   Grand Rapids, MI 41-0 (25)
2. **MANNY PACQUIAO**
   Philippines 51-3-2 (38)
3. **ANDRE BERTO**
   Winter Haven, FL 26-0 (20)
4. **MIGUEL COTTO**
   Puerto Rico 35-2 (28)
5. **SHANE MOSLEY**
   Pomona, CA 46-6-1 (39)
6. **JOSHUA CLOTTEY**
   Ghana 35-4 (20)
7. **JAN ZAVECK**
   Slovenia 30-1 (17)
8. **VYACHESLAV SENCHENKO**
   Ukraine 31-0 (20)
9. **RAFAL JACKIEWICZ**
   Poland 36-9-1 (18)
10. **TIMOTHY BRADLEY**
    Palm Springs, CA 26-0 (11)

Jr. Welterweights

Weight Limit: 140 pounds

Champ: Vacant

1. **TIMOTHY BRADLEY**
   Palm Springs, CA 26-0 (11)
2. **AMIR KHAN**
   England 23-1 (17)
3. **DEVON ALEXANDER**
   St. Louis, MO 21-0 (13)
4. **MARCOS MAIDANA**
   Argentina 29-1 (27)
5. **ANDREAS KOTELNIK**
   Ukraine 31-4-1 (13)
6. **JUAN URANGO**
   Colombia 22-3-1 (17)
7. **KAIZER MABUZA**
   South Africa 23-6-3 (14)
8. **PAUL MALIGNAGGI**
   Brooklyn, NY 27-4 (5)
9. **LAMONT PETERSON**
   Washington, D.C. 28-1 (14)
10. **PAUL MCCLOSKEY**
    England 21-0 (11)

Lightweights

Weight Limit: 135 pounds

Champ: JUAN MANUEL MARQUEZ
Mexico 51-5-1 (37)

1. **MICHAEL KATSIDIS**
   Australia 27-2 (22)
2. **MIGUEL ACOSTA**
   Venezuela 27-9-2 (21)
3. **HUMBERTO SOTO**
   Mexico 53-7-2 (32)
4. **ALI FUNEKA**
   South Africa 30-3-3 (25)
5. **BRANDON RIOS**
   Lubbock, TX 25-0-1 (18)
6. **JOHN MURRAY**
   England 30-0 (18)
7. **PAULUS MOSES**
   Namibia 25-1 (17)
8. **ANTHONY PETERSON**
   Washington, DC 30-1 (19)
9. **URBANO ANTILLON**
   Mexico 28-1 (20)
10. **MIGUEL VAZQUEZ**
    Mexico 26-3 (12)

Jr. Lightweights

Weight Limit: 130 pounds

Champ: Vacant

1. **MZONKE FANA**
   South Africa 30-4 (12)
2. **RICKY BURNS**
   Scotland 29-2 (7)
3. **ROMAN MARTINEZ**
   Puerto Rico 24-1-1 (15)
4. **TAKASHI UCHIYAMA**
   Japan 16-0 (13)
5. **JORGE SOLIS**
   Mexico 40-2-2 (29)
6. **JUAN CARLOS SALGADO**
   Mexico 22-1-1 (16)
7. **JORGE LINARES**
   Venezuela 29-1 (18)
8. **VITALI TAJBERT**
   Kazakhstan 20-1 (6)
9. **ARGENIS MENDEZ**
   Dominican Republic 17-1 (9)
10. **CASSIUS BALOYI**
    South Africa 37-5-1 (19)

Jr. Bantamweights

Weight Limit: 115 pounds

Champ: Vacant

1. **VIC DARCHINYAN**
   Armenia 35-2-1 (27)
2. **HUGO CAZARES**
   Mexico 32-6-2 (23)
3. **NOBUO NASHIRO**
   Japan 13-2-1 (8)
4. **NONITO DONAIRE**
   Philippines 24-1 (16)
5. **TOMAS ROJAS**
   Mexico 34-12-1 (23)
6. **KOHEI KONO**
   Japan 25-5 (9)
7. **DRIAN FRANCISCO**
   Philippines 19-0-1 (15)
8. **OMAR NARVAEZ**
   Argentina 32-0-2 (19)
9. **JUAN ALBERTO ROSAS**
   Mexico 32-5 (26)
10. **CESAR SEDA**
    Puerto Rico 19-0 (14)

Flyweights

Weight Limit: 112 pounds

Champ: PONGSAKLEK WONJONGKAM
Thailand 76-3-1 (40)

1. **KOKI KAMEDA**
   Japan 23-1 (15)
2. **DAISUKE NAITO**
   Japan 36-3-3 (23)
3. **DAIKI KAMEDA**
   Japan 18-2 (11)
4. **DENKAOSAN KAOVICHIT**
   Thailand 50-2-1 (20)
5. **TAKEFUMI SAKATA**
   Japan 36-6-2 (17)
6. **LUIS CONCEPCION**
   Panama 21-1 (16)
7. **MORUTI MTHALANE**
   South Africa 26-2 (17)
8. **JULIO CESAR MIRANDA**
   Mexico 33-5-1 (26)
9. **ROCKY FUENTES**
   Philippines 27-6-2 (17)
10. **MILAN MELINDO**
    Philippines 22-0 (7)

Jr. Flyweights

Weight Limit: 108 pounds

Champ: GIOVANNI SEGURA
Mexico 25-1-1 (21)

1. **IVAN CALDERON**
   Puerto Rico 34-1-1 (6)
2. **OMAR NINO**
   Mexico 30-3-2 (12)
3. **RODEL MAYOL**
   Philippines 26-5-2 (20)
4. **LUIS ALBERTO LAZARTE**
   Argentina 48-9-1 (18)
5. **CARLOS TAMARA**
   Colombia 21-5 (15)
6. **BRIAN VILORIA**
   Waipahu, HI 27-3 (15)
7. **ULISES SOLIS**
   Mexico 32-2-2 (21)
8. **JUAN CARLOS REVECO**
   Argentina 25-1 (15)
9. **RAMON HIRALES**
   Mexico 14-1-1 (8)
10. **JOHNRIEL CASIMERO**
    Philippines 14-1 (8)

Strawweights

Weight Limit: 105 pounds

Champ: Vacant

1. **ROMAN GONZALEZ**
   Nicaragua 26-0 (22)
2. **NKOSINATHI JOYI**
   South Africa 21-0 (15)
3. **OLEYDONG SITHSAMERCHAI**
   Thailand 34-0-1 (12)
4. **RAUL GARCIA**
   Mexico 27-1-1 (16)
5. **DONNIE NIETES**
   Philippines 27-1-3 (15)
6. **FLORANTE CONDES**
   Philippines 23-5-1 (20)
7. **JUAN PALACIOS**
   Nicaragua 26-3 (21)
8. **DENVER CUELLO**
   Philippines 22-4-5 (13)
9. **KATSUNARI TAKAYAMA**
   Japan 23-4 (9)
10. **MICHAEL LANDERO**
    Philippines 14-4-4 (4)

By Jeff Ryan

Coping Strategy

Are Floyd Mayweather and Manny Pacquiao *ever* going to touch gloves and come out fighting? Well, for the longest time, the cynic/realist/veteran boxing observer in me figured that there was no way a battle that could generate so much money for so many people involved wouldn't eventually take place. Now, I'm not so sure.

Dangle me out a 20th story window and force me to make a prediction, and I'd still say to put some money away in an envelope for the day that tickets go on sale or you're able to order pay-per-view. But it's at least possible now to envision a scenario in which "Money" and "Pac-Man" permanently pursue other options, as they say in the corporate world. And that's one hell of a shame.

PHOTO BY JED JACOBSOHN/GETTY IMAGES

Pacquiao can make history without Mayweather

It's going to be a long, cold, dark November for a lot of us because that's the month we thought we were finally going to witness the best boxing matchup in years. Has it been a frustrating experience waiting for this one to unfold, or what? We've had to endure Mayweather's temporary retirement, the great blood-testing debate, and even contradictory reports of how the negotiations were progressing (or if there even *were* negotiations taking place). In terms of crushing disappointments, this is as crushing as Superfly Snuka flying off the top of the steel cage and landing squarely on the sternum of The Magnificent Muraco.

So why, then, am I not in a grand funk? Maybe because in my more lucid moments, I remind myself of these five facts:

1) History can still be made even if they don't fight each other: Back in 1985, the Chicago Bears went 15-1 during the NFL's regular season. Their lone loss was to Dan Marino and the Miami Dolphins. Salivating fans craved a rematch for the Super Bowl, and it looked like a good bet—until the Dolphins were upset by New England in the AFC Championship Game.

The Bears went on to rout the Patriots in Super Bowl XX, and the legacy of that great Chicago squad

PHOTO BY ED MULHOLLAND/FIGHTWIRE IMAGES

How about Adamek vs. Povetkin as a consolation prize?

isn't tainted at all by its failure to face Miami for the big prize. No Mayweather vs. Pacquiao? No problem. If Pac-Man, who won his first alphabet title belt at 112 pounds, captured, say, the junior middleweight crown, and Money went on to defeat Andre Berto, and/or Timothy Bradley, and Amir Khan before retiring undefeated, it would be impossible to find fault with either Pacquiao's or Mayweather's body of work.

2) In a way, we were lucky to have gotten even this far: If Mayweather had stayed retired, we wouldn't have been teased by thoughts that a Pacquiao fight might be right around the corner. And if Pacquiao's 2004 draw with Juan Manuel Marquez and 2008 decision over the Mexican had been scored in Marquez' favor (as some ringsiders thought both fights should have been), Pacquiao-Mayweather wouldn't have anything near the appeal that it has today.

3) Mayweather-Pacquiao might have been a real dud: It's easy to envision Mayweather deciding early on that he was going to get on his bicycle and turn all 12 rounds into the Tour de Vegas. Pacquiao would pursue, never get past the jab often enough or long enough to inflict any serious damage, and Mayweather would escape with a—zzzz—decision. He'd be unmarked, and we'd be unfulfilled.

4) There are plenty of other Grade A matchups to crave: There are enough good shootouts on the drawing board (at least on *my* drawing board) to salve the wounds inflicted by the scrapping of Mayweather-Pacquiao. Let's start with David Haye vs. either Klitschko brother, or Tomasz Adamek vs. Alexander Povetkin. Bradley-Khan isn't exactly sloppy seconds, is it? How about Lucian Bute vs. the winner of the "Super Six" tournament? Sergio Martinez-Paul Williams II anyone?

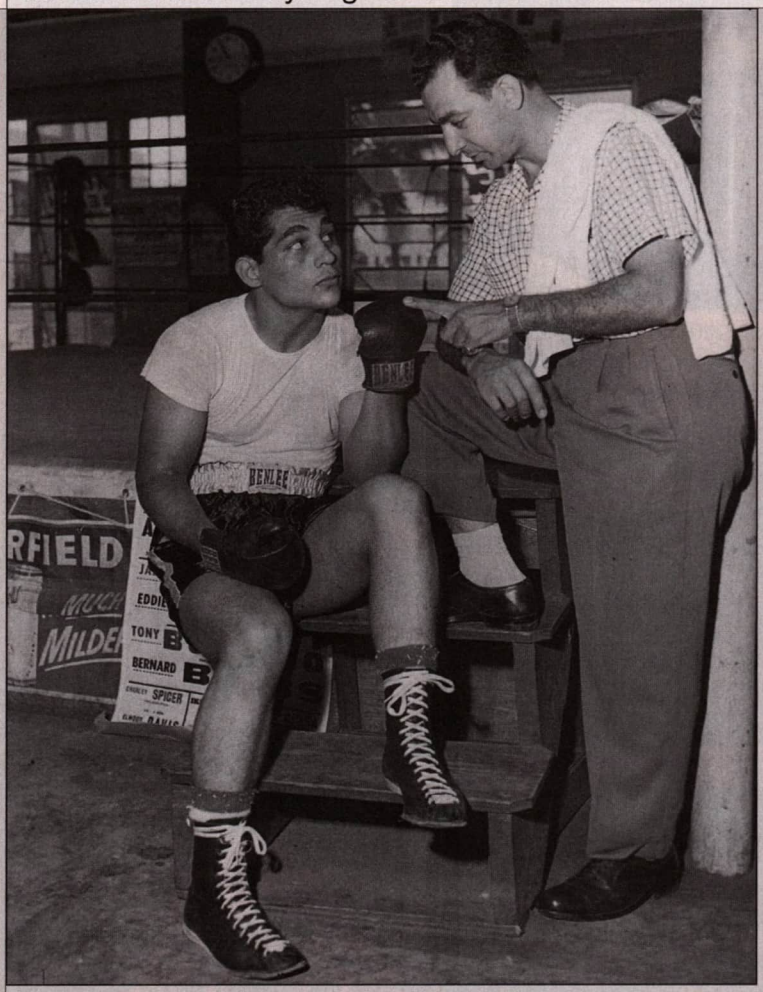
5) Mayweather-Pacquiao may yet take place: "Pretty Boy," of course, complicated the situation a bit in September when he was charged with threatening his ex-girlfriend. According to a police report, Mayweather told Josie Harris and her current boyfriend, "I'm going to have you both disappear." Presumably, Mayweather wasn't talking about performing a magic trick. Now, this would seem to be serious stuff if it wasn't for the fact that Mayweather is Mayweather, a multimillionaire athlete, former contestant on *Dancing With The Stars*, and prominent product pitchman.

Country singer Brad Paisley has a song called "Celebrity." It pokes fun at the alternate universe big shots live in and includes the line, "I'll get community service no matter what law I break." Enough said.

So after Floyd does his X number of hours showing underprivileged kids in some youth center how to double up on

Personal Perceptions:

The last word on everything from the resurrection of one institution to the decline of another:



Willie Pastrano and Angelo Dundee at the original 5th Street Gym

• Gym dandy news! It's great to see that Miami Beach's 5th Street Gym, whose flooring absorbed the sweat droplets of everyone from Joe Louis, Sugar Ray Robinson, and Jake LaMotta to Muhammad Ali, Joe Frazier, and Roberto Duran (not to mention a Willie Pep here and a Bob Foster there), has made a comeback. And at the same location, the corner of 5th Street and Washington Avenue, where the old building stood before it was razed in 1993. While we're at it, are any of you rich guys out there interested in bringing back the St. Nicholas Arena?

• Shane Mosley, who just turned 39 years old, says he'll be able to fight until he's 47. If he's still lugging his creaking joints up the ring steps eight years hence, he can take comfort in the fact that nobody will be calling him the most clueless old man in boxing. That designation will go to Evander Holyfield, who, at that time, will no doubt still be active at the age of 56.

• Speaking of Metamucil maulers, is Bernard Hopkins making a mistake by ending his latest hiatus with a challenge of Jean Pascal in Quebec City? Only one of B-Hop's last nine wins (a span of seven years) has come by kayo, and going the distance with a local hero on his adopted home turf sounds like an even easier way of becoming a robbery victim than flashing a wad of Benjamins in the subway.

• My sympathy goes out to Bob Arum following the loss of his son, John.

• In September, Ricky Hatton entered rehab for what was reported to be an addiction to alcohol. As part of his treatment, "Hit Man" ought to be shipped

the jab, maybe he and Pacquiao will once and for all reach an agreement on the purses, the blood-testing issue, the size of the names on the posters, what brand gloves are used, and anything else that could potentially hold up the most lucrative fight that has ever been proposed since the days when cavemen first stood toe-to-toe and traded bombs for the right to drag some pretty girl around by the hair.

This fight can't *really* die on the drawing board, can it? On second thought, let's not think about that. I'm trying to get a good night's sleep.

Large-Mouth Ass: Mayweather, Haye, and Mike Tyson don't slur their words or speak with thick tongues, but, if they keep talking the way they have been, people are really going to start wondering if they're suffering from brain damage. The air pollution generated by the trio's open mouths recently must have had environmentalists in the US and Great Britain beside themselves with grief.

Referring to his upcoming heavyweight clash with Audley Harrison, Haye told a group of journalists that the battle would be "as one-sided as a gang rape." Lovely. Mayweather, another titan of tact, proved that he has too much time on his hands these days when he was seen on a video uttering racist and stereotypical putdowns of Pacquiao and purposely mispronouncing the Filipino's name. ("Not-So-Pretty Boy" later apologized.)

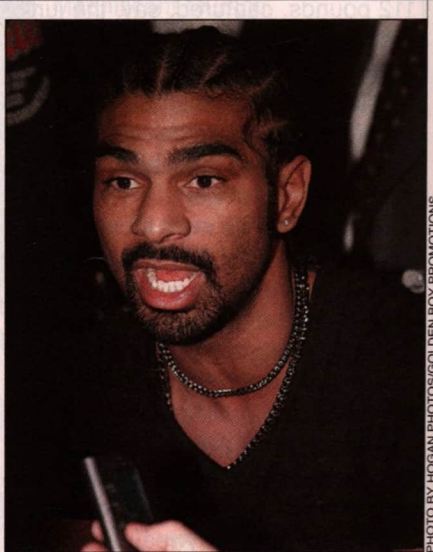


PHOTO BY HOGAN PHOTOS/GOLDEN BOY PROMOTIONS

You never know what's going to come out when Haye opens his mouth

out to New Mexico for a little chat with Johnny Tapia, who also started out as the life of every party but eventually found himself sleeping under highway overpasses.

• That Wladmir Klitschko-Sam Peter rematch would have been a great idea if this were 2006. By 2010, it was well past its expiration date.

• Somebody please hire Cory Spinks a driver. He's becoming a fender's paint chip off the old block.

• *Sports Illustrated* has always been the Ali of sports publications. But while the magazine was once "The Greatest," the Ali who moved like lightning while bombarding Cleveland Williams, it has lately resembled the Ali who languished on the ropes and did nothing against Jimmy Young and retained his title on reputation alone. One recent article made an embarrassingly weak argument that Serena Williams was the greatest female tennis player ever, while another issue referred to Miami Dolphins coach Tony Sparano as *Tommy*. (Any proofreaders on staff?)

But truly foolish was *SI* including Tyson in its annual "Where Are They Now?" issue. Are they kidding? The ex-champ is more visible these days than at any time since he held the crown. Couldn't *SI* have found any other boxing figures better suited for such a story? Ray Mancini, Matthew Saad Muhammad, Iran Barkley. Where are *they* now?

PHOTO BY CHRISTOF KOEPSEL/BONGARTS/GETTY IMAGES

Klitschko-Peter II: Four years too late

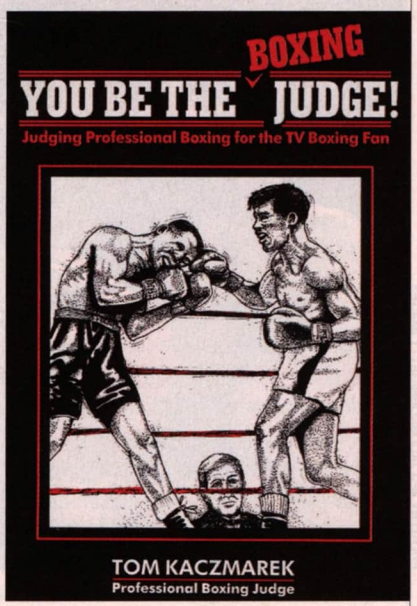
And then there was Tyson, who took home the bronze medal in the Dumbest Remarks of the Summer Sweepstakes. Speaking of his friendship with the late rapper, Tupac Shakur, "Leg-Iron" Mike told the Associated Press, "He always wanted me to smoke weed with him, and I never did it, and I wish I did. That's my biggest regret."

That's his biggest regret?

Ours is that Haye, Mayweather, and Tyson don't have mouthpieces jammed between their lips full-time.

Frayed Cable: What's going on here? According to the media monitoring company, Kagan, HBO's subscriber base has declined for two consecutive quarters, and the cable giant's 28.55 million subscribers is its lowest total in four years. So much for all the speculation that his next contract would finally make Harold Lederman richer than David Letterman.

That's The Score: Attention anyone who has ever approached me in a bar or at a barbecue, wedding, funeral, etc. to complain about how a particular fight was scored. Judge Tom Kaczmarek wrote a book in 1996 entitled, *You Be The Boxing Judge* (Dorrance Publishing Co., $9.95). It explains everything from the four basic factors used to judge a contest to how to properly utilize the 10-point must scoring system. Find it. Buy it. Read it. *Then*, and only then, talk to me. ■



By Ivan Goldman

Mayweather Hits The Red Zone

Floyd Mayweather throws a phenomenal right-hand lead. After absorbing it once or twice without ever seeing it, his opponents, looking to avoid the next one, can't seem to follow their game plans anymore, and, though Mayweather rarely follows his right with anything approximating a combination, it's still a wondrous weapon.

And now that he's out on bail in connection with (once again) an accusation that he physically assaulted a woman, I guess Mayweather also deserves some kind of credit for his remarkable ability to stay out of jail despite so many brushes with the law. Anyone unaware that Mayweather has a volatile personality just hasn't been paying attention. As for the rest of us, we weren't terribly surprised when, just prior to the arrest, he let loose with a pointless, disjointed video rant insulting the number-one fighter in the world, Manny Pacquiao—along with everyone who is gay, shorter than he is, or of Filipino extraction. I don't know what the others did to Mayweather, but Pacquiao's crime, as far as I could tell, was to seek a fight with him.

Neither the rant nor the apology that ultimately followed will impress anyone with an IQ above room temperature. But Floyd's said and done lots of ugly things in his career, and it hasn't hurt him much. Fans rooting against him are nonetheless paying fans. Lots of otherwise astute observers believe his vicious, ignorant rants are his attempts to hype up the gate. They're more likely explained by his exhaustive craving for attention along with his foolish belief that one of these days he'll master The Dozens—a verbal competition that has solid roots in the urban ghetto: Two males go head to head with insults that have few limits, as in, "Yo mama's so dumb she sold her car for gas money."

A good Dozens man shows exemplary wit, mental agility, and coolness under fire. Mayweather, even though he chuckles during his delivery, ends up dishing out attacks that are mostly devoid of intelligence or humor, leaving targets such as Pacquiao or Ricky Hatton scratching their heads.

PHOTO BY JED JACOBSOHN/GETTY IMAGES

Mayweather's lead right is almost as fast as his mouth

PHOTO BY MARK RALSTON/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Mayweather and Mosley engage in a war of words

The pioneering Don Rickles proved you don't have to be black to play The Dozens. He pushes his comic insults way out on the edge, yet evokes laughter from both his audience and his victims. But employed clumsily, The Dozens can lead to anger, hurt, and/or violence. Maybe Muhammad Ali was just playing, but Joe Frazier wasn't the time when, his patience gone, he physically jumped his loquacious nemesis in a TV studio while the camera was rolling.

Just before the Mayweather rant circulated, reader Robert P. Ruiz Jr. emailed me to say that I "let Floyd slide too easily on his bs. Give it to him next chance you get." Mr. Ruiz saw correctly that my attitude toward "Money" isn't wholly negative. I'd guess many of us are in the same boat. We're offended by the way he conducts his life and his cautiousness inside the ring. We're tired of his ducking opponents while telling us he's the best ever.

But he works his butt off in camp. And though he parcels out excitement only in small doses, you can't dispute his talent. In his most recent outing, he tamed tough customer Shane Mosley into a kind of disillusioned spaniel. Does Mayweather really deserve so much more money than, say, daredevil lightweight Brandon Rios? Probably not, but Lady Gaga doesn't deserve more money than Army Staff Sgt. Salvatore Giunta, who won the Medal of Honor in Afghanistan. But she gets it.

PHOTO BY CHRIS FARINA/TOP RANK

Pacquiao: Good guy but not perfect

Back to reader Ruiz: Yes, I wish Floyd were a splendid human being who took more gambles inside the ropes, but I don't see Pacquiao, who correctly called Mayweather's tirade an "uneducated message," as a one hundred percent hero either. If he were really the A+ character we'd like him to be, he wouldn't reward Antonio Margarito, of loaded gloves fame, with a multi-million-dollar purse. The primary consideration of Pac-Man and his trainer Freddie Roach appears to have been financial. Maybe we'll catch them

next on one of those shows where contestants eat earthworms on a tropical island for cash.

Lederman's Daffy Scores: Did you ever wonder how Harold Lederman's scores can be so—well, I don't want to call them *stupid*, exactly. Let's just call them *wrong*. Not always wrong, but wrong too much of the time. A trained pharmacist, clearly the man himself is no dumbbell. Fans love him, and he seems like a truly nice guy. If only his scores matched his certitude. Though Harold can also get it right, sometimes he tells us two and two is three.

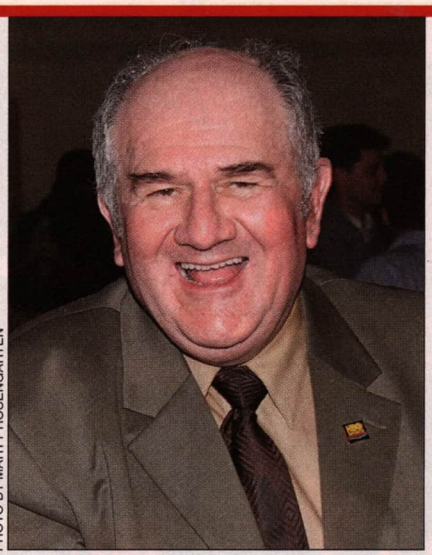


PHOTO BY MARTY ROSENGARTEN

Some of Harold's scorecards are no laughing matter

Describing how he arrives at his conclusions, Harold has on a few occasions revealed the source of the trouble, but I used to disregard these revelations, figuring he just misspoke somehow. Because how can a guy on national TV who's supposedly been hired for his scoring expertise not know the fundamentals of scoring? Well, he doesn't.

It was after he explained his lopsided, silly result for Devon Alexander over Andeas Kotelnik (puzzling the heck out of his colleagues Max Kellerman and Bob Papa) that I finally realized his words of explanation were the ones Harold intended.

He correctly noted the four scoring criteria: effective punching, effective aggression, ring generalship, and defense, though he listed them in the wrong order of importance. His key mistake is that, according to him, he uses all four criteria in each round. To judge properly, only if effective punching is an exact tie would you consider the second characteristic. If the second is also even, you look at the third, and so on.

When one fighter has outpunched the other, it's ridiculous to look at ring generalship, defense, or anything else. In most rounds, effective punching will determine the score, which is why Kellerman's method of deciding which fighter you would rather have been makes sense. It's good to be aggressive, to follow an intelligent strategy, and to put up good defense, but mainly you don't ever want to get outpunched. That's the key.

Harold might render a correct score because the effective puncher usually prevails in the other categories too, but not always. Even if he sees all the punches correctly, Harold could score a round for an aggressive strategist who slipped some punches but was basically ineffective.

Caged Toney: Okay, James Toney didn't exactly roll over five-time UFC champion Randy Couture in their signature pay-per-view cage-fight. Competing on unfamiliar ground, "Lights Out" was predictably taken down to the mat and choked out in three minutes, 18 seconds.

At least he left the cage with a reported guaranteed of $500,000 to hold off creditors. Before the fight, I saw an interviewer ask Toney repeatedly why he accepted the challenge. *Because he needed the money, dummy.* Toney's got child support commitments, lawyers, and who knows who else circling his assets at all times. He's pretty much tried to live like Sugar Ray Robinson, beautiful suits and automobiles and all that, but the earnings didn't quite match the attempted lifestyle.

PHOTO BY EMILY HARNEY

We're not even sure Toney won the stare-down

Wladimir brutally dismantled Peter

PHOTO BY CHRISTOF KOEPSE/BONGARTS/GETTY IMAGES

Couture deserves congratulations both for his victory and his gentlemanly behavior. After Toney tapped out, his ex-boxing promoter Dan Goossen challenged Couture to meet James in a boxing ring. Declining, Couture said Toney would probably kayo him in the first round. "It's crazy to think because you're a world champion you can just come and cross over into another sport," he said. An intelligent and shockingly humble appraisal that also explains why Michael Jordan, possibly the greatest pure athlete of our time, barely broke .200 when he detoured from basketball to the baseball minors.

Jordan lacked only early, sustained training and practice, so that his body could learn to react naturally without his having to think about it first. And had Toney been a mixed martial arts fighter since way back when, you can bet he'd have kicked plenty of caged butt, talking trash the whole time.

The other question is whether a cage fighter in a real-life street fight would always prevail over a boxer. Depends on the individuals. Thankfully cage fighting isn't as realistic as its proponents claim. There's no biting, scratching, gouging, finger bending, or stomping … the list of possible barbarities is endless. In a street fight, some wretch might grab a wrench or a tree branch or a can of bug spray. So who wins? The answer can't be found within the boundaries of civilization.

Futches To Wladimir Klitschko and ESPN: THE RING heavyweight champ was brutally effective against Samuel Peter and fought aggressively as well. What else does a guy have to do to get on American TV? ESPN should have carried the fight on one of its two main networks, but at least it gave us the bout over the Internet. Also, the technology appears to be improving. It actually worked. ■

[Camera Clicks]

PHOTO BY KRAFFT ANGERER/BONGARTS/GETTY IMAGES

You might think of fishing as one of the most low impact "sports" imaginable, but a long day on the boat with rod and reel was still enough to get Shannon Briggs wheezily complaining about his asthma and to leave Vitali Klitschko with career-derailing injuries to his back, shoulders, and knees. Shortly after this picture was taken, the two heavyweights ran out of worms to use as bait, so Briggs was generous enough to cut off a few dreadlocks to put on the hooks instead.

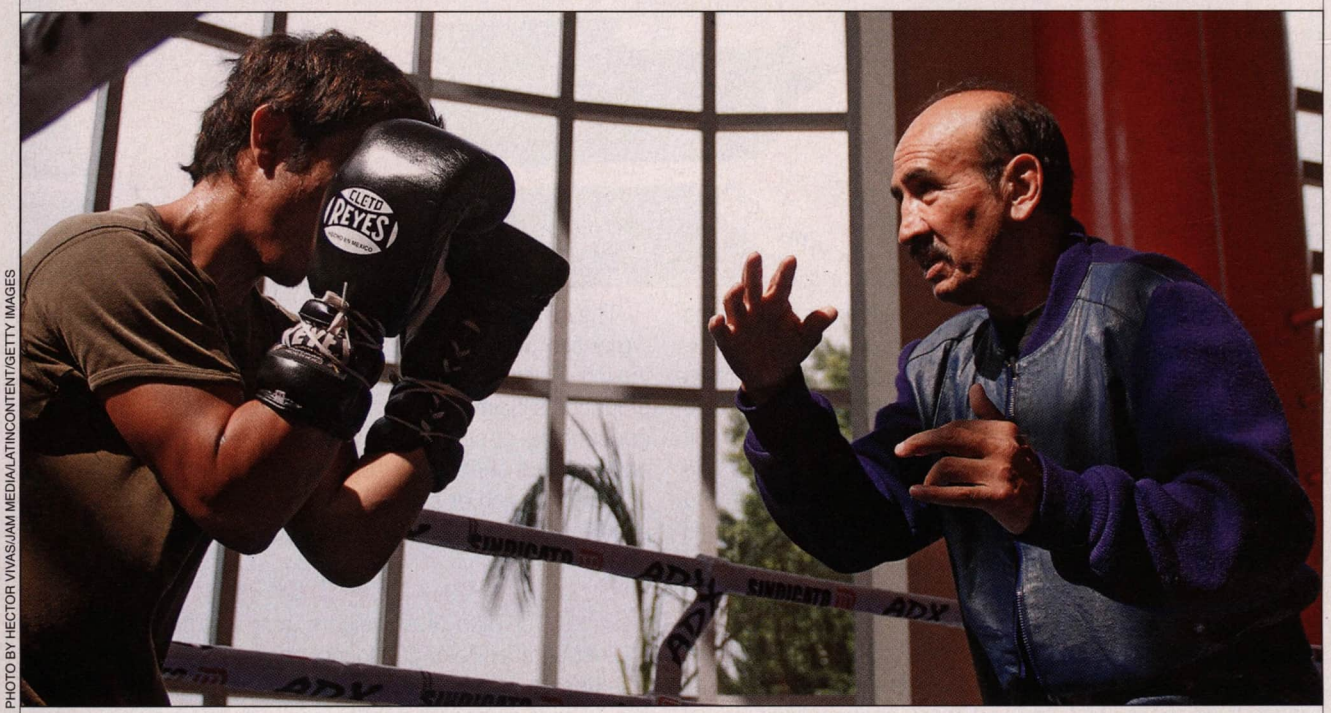


PHOTO BY HECTOR VIVAS/JAM MEDIA/LATINCONTENT/GETTY IMAGES

Hall of Famer Carlos Zarate may have a little less hair than he did in his prime, but he still has the moves, as he demonstrates by putting his son, Carlos Jr., through the paces during a September training session in Mexico City. The younger Zarate is 10-0 (7) as a lightweight, has great boxing genes, and, if this photo is any indication, has a pretty tight defense.

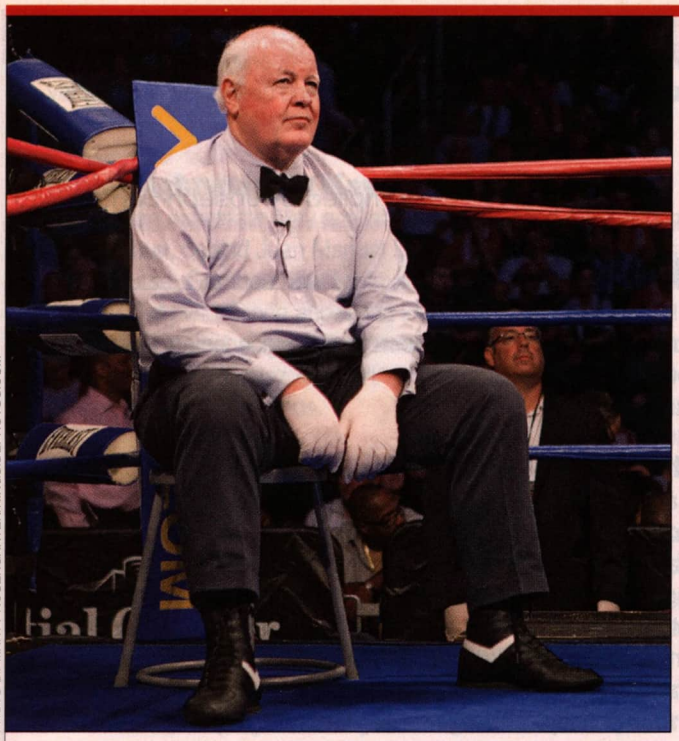


PHOTO BY MARTY ROSENGARTEN/RINGSIDEPHOTOS.COM

It's been almost 35 years since Randy Neuman found himself sitting on the stool between rounds, but the heavyweight fringe contender turned referee will gladly cop a squat between fights. Neuman worked a few undercard fights on the Tomasz Adamek-Michael Grant show at the Prudential Center in Newark, New Jersey, and, when asked why he sat on the stool, Neuman explained, "I saw Zab Judah in the audience, so I wanted to sit on it before he could throw it at me."

PHOTO BY STEFAN GOSATTI/GETTY IMAGES

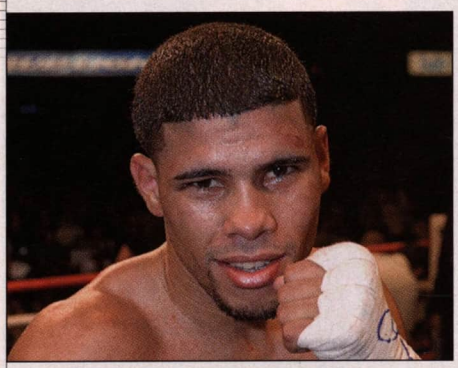
This photo offers further proof of two things we've long known to be true: (1) Not all runway models are necessarily attractive, and (2) Most of the designs you see at fashion shows are utterly hideous. This boxing-themed monstrosity was designed by the apparently blind Kate Sylvester and displayed at the Rosemount Sydney Fashion Festival in Australia.

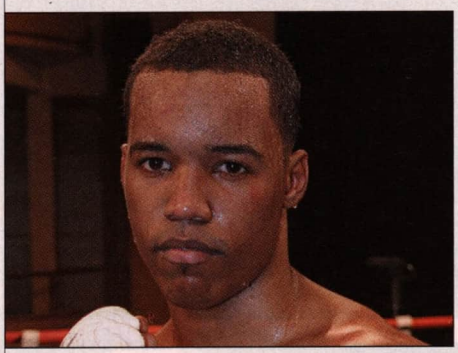
PHOTO BY MARTY ROSENGARTEN/RINGSIDEPHOTOS.COM

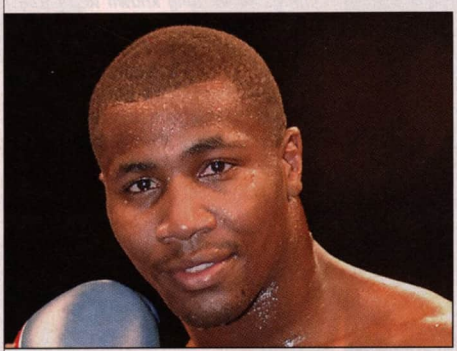
Those two photographers on the other side of the ring think they have it all figured out, but our man Marty Rosengarten knows better than they do how to shoot these round-card girls from their best side.

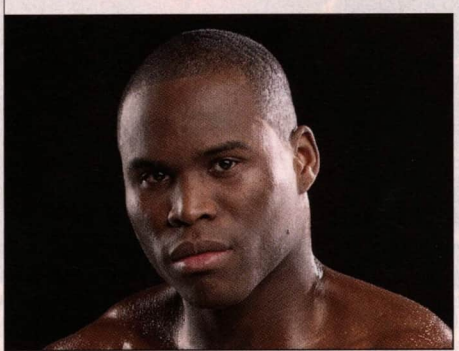
Compiled by Joseph Santoliquito

A Look Back









What have our recent "New Faces" been doing since being featured in THE RING? An update:

Juan Manuel Lopez
junior featherweight (January 2008)

At the time he appeared in New Faces, he was dubbed the second coming of Wilfredo Gomez. What he's turned out to be is the original "JuanMa," for whom Puerto Rican fans clamor. Many are now calling him the next Felix Trinidad. Since appearing in THE RING, Lopez' career has taken off. Now campaigning as a featherweight, he's gone 10-0 (9) since and has garnered two titles. But it's his suspect chin and the exciting way JuanMa has succeeded that's creating an ever-growing fan base. He struggled mightily, getting involved in a life-and-death struggle with journeyman Rogers Mtagwa and easily disposed of the feather-fisted Steven Luevano to claim the WBO featherweight title. He got off the floor to stop Bernabe Concepcion and was scheduled to take on the biggest test of his career against dangerous former junior feather champ Rafael Marquez as this issue went to press. JuanMa is easily the most accomplished fighter of this group. **Record: 29-0 (26)**

Argenis Mendez
junior lightweight (February 2008)

Mendez turned pro after a great amateur career. Still fighting at junior lightweight, Mendez was progressing well until experiencing a slight bump in the road, dropping an eight-round split-decision to Jamie Sandoval, a tough journeyman who's gone 1-1-1 since upsetting Mendez, who is 5-0 (1) on the comeback trail. Though he showed some punching power early in his career, that power has diminished against better competition. **Record: 17-1 (9)**

Aaron Williams
cruiserweight (March 2008)

Since his appearance in New Faces, "Awesome" Aaron has proven to be anything but awesome. Williams carried an impressive 15-0-1 (11) in March 2008, but has gone 5-2 (2) since then and is still fighting eight-round bouts. Williams has shown he can beat also-rans, but he has trouble stepping up against better fighters. His first loss came against Jose Luis Herrera, by fifth-round TKO in May 2008. A year later, he fought well against Yoan Pablo Hernandez, who entered the fight with an 18-1 record, but fell victim to a unanimous decision. At this point, Williams seems to be headed toward journeyman status. **Record: 20-2-1 (13)**

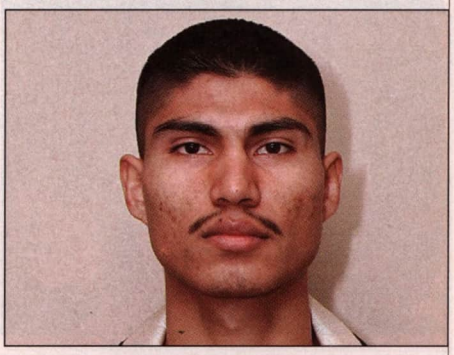
Adonis Stevenson
super middleweight (April 2008)

"Superman" was done in by truth-teller Darnell Boone, a seasoned journeyman who's won his share against rising, highly touted prospects like Stevenson. Boone scored a second-round TKO against Stevenson in April 2010, yanking off his Superman cape. Until meeting Boone, Stevenson looked as if he was progressing nicely, going 3-0 (3) under the guidance of Canadian promoter

Yvon Michel. Stevenson may have to take a step back and regroup before venturing into the deep end again. **Record: 13-1 (10)**

Yuriorkis Gamboa
junior lightweight (May 2008)

The Cuban expatriate may arguably be the second most accomplished fighter in this group, behind Juan Manual Lopez, with whom he seems to be on a collision course. Gamboa now fights at featherweight, where he's currently rated third by THE RING. Since appearing in New Faces, he's gone 11-0 (8), won the vacant IBF featherweight title against Orlando Salido in September 2009, and done something Lopez couldn't do—stop Rogers Mtagwa, which Gamboa achieved in just two rounds. **Record: 19-0 (15)**

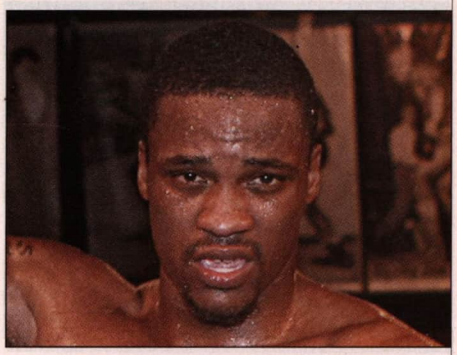


Miguel Garcia
junior lightweight (June 2008)

Garcia is from a great boxing family. He is the son of trainer Eduardo, Fernando Vargas' former trainer, and younger brother of Roberto, known as "Grandpa," a former IBF lightweight titlist who is now a standout trainer. Managed by Cameron Dunkin and trained by brother Roberto, "Mikey" has been steadily progressing to contender status. He's gone 12-0 (10) since appearing in New Faces and is coming off his most impressive victory to date, an 11th-round TKO over Cornelius Lock in August 2010. **Record: 23-0 (19)**

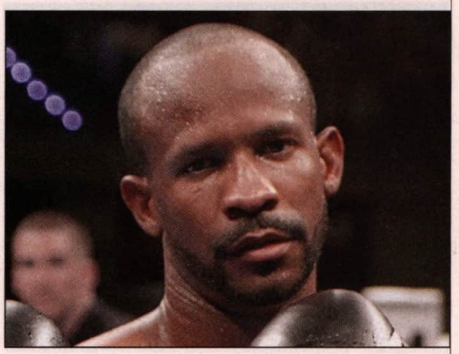
Vanes Martirosyan
junior middleweight (July 2008)

As the competition level began rising, Martirosyan has shown he isn't the power-puncher he seemed to be at the start of his career. What he has shown are good boxing skills, and "Nightmare" is currently on the best run of his career, with decision victories over former titlist Kassim Ouma (a verdict that was disputed by many) and a dominating victory over previously undefeated prospect Joe Greene on the Yankee Stadium undercard of the Miguel Cotto-Yuri Foreman fight in July 2010 (which wasn't disputed at all). Currently ranked eighth at junior middle by THE RING, Martirosyan is 9-0 (4) since appearing in New Faces but needs to add a dab of excitement to his winning ways. The victory over Greene, though impressive, should have come with a snooze alarm. **Record: 28-0 (17)**



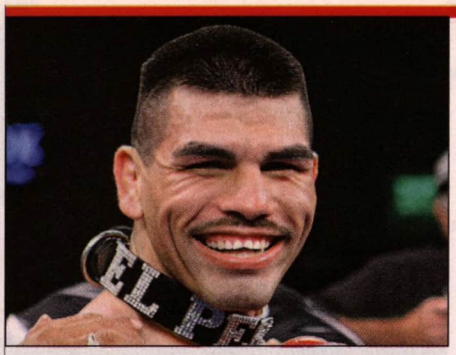
Mike Jones
welterweight (August 2008)

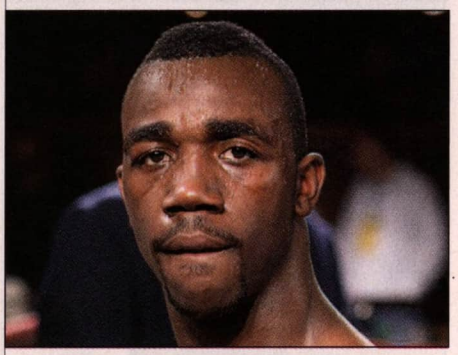
Hall of Fame promoter J Russell Peltz often works wonders with Philadelphia-area fighters, and Jones is no different. Under Peltz' guidance, Jones has gone 9-0 (6) since appearing in THE RING and continues to build his record against journeymen with decent records. But he has also been under somewhat of a protective umbrella. Jones has been a pro for five years and hasn't faced anyone close to being ranked by THE RING. However, one pattern has emerged: The knockout power Jones possessed early in his career has dissipated slightly and he's been forced to box more often. He has garnered a nice little Philadelphia fan base, and he'll get the opportunity to fight on the biggest stage of his career when he takes on Jesus Soto Karass at Cowboys Stadium on November 13, as part of the Manny Pacquiao-Antonio Margarito undercard. **Record: 22-0 (18)**

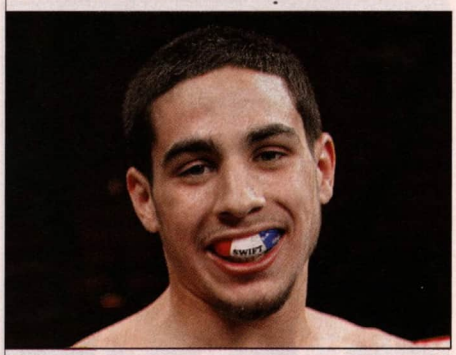


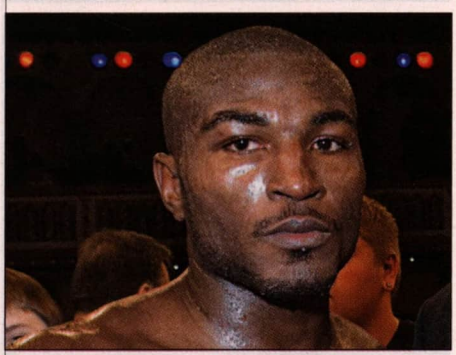
Yan Barthelemy
bantamweight (September 2008)

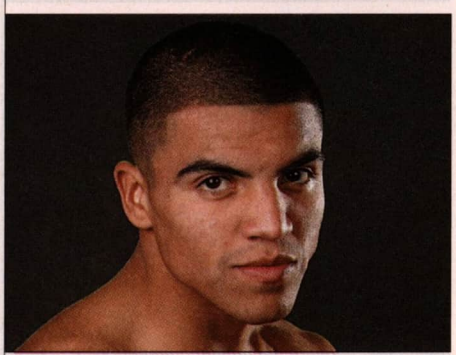
Looks like appearing in THE RING was the kiss of death for Barthelemy, who was 6-0 when he appeared in New Faces and has since gone 5-2 (4). When











matched with decent opposition, Barthelemy went crashing down—literally. Undefeated Jorge Diaz hit Barthelemy so hard that referee David Fields didn't even bother counting. The southpaw has moved to junior featherweight, but his lack of power puts him in the club fighter category. **Record: 11-2 (4)**

Alfredo Angulo
junior middleweight (Fall 2008)

Angulo rebounded well from a close, decision loss to Kermit Cintron to go 4-0—all stoppages, including a Knockout of the Year candidate when Angulo squashed Harry Joe Yorgey in three rounds. Angulo has shown the kind of exciting, devastating power that makes him one of the top junior middleweights in the world today. There is just one glaring problem: Angulo reportedly entered the United States illegally, and, as this magazine went to press, it appeared Angulo was going to be deported back to Mexico. It's too bad for US fight fans, with whom he had become a favorite. **Record: 19-1 (16)**

Deandre Latimore
junior middleweight (October 2008)

Latimore has had a bit of a rough road, going 3-2 (2) since appearing in New Faces. He had one nice victory, stopping fellow prospect Sechew Powell to earn a shot at Cory Spinks for the vacant IBF junior middleweight title. Latimore fought well, but apparently not well enough to impress the judge, falling on the short side of a split-decision. He then experienced another tough loss, dropping a majority decision to Powell in a rematch. Latimore remains a viable possibility; he just needs rebuilding. **Record: 21-3 (17)**

Danny Garcia
junior welterweight (November 2008)

"Swift" has certainly been active, going 12-0 (7) after appearing in THE RING. Now fighting as a welterweight, Garcia is being moved gradually and is beginning to build a following in his hometown of Philadelphia, where he is headlining local cable shows. Garcia's first major test was scheduled for October 8 against Mike Arnaoutis. If he does well in that outing, it might be time for Garcia to take another step up. **Record: 18-0 (12)**

Tavoris Cloud
light heavyweight (December 2008)

It didn't take Cloud long to prove himself—winning the vacant IBF light heavyweight title with a unanimous decision over Clinton Woods in August 2009. Cloud then made a successful defense against the always-tough Glen Johnson, a former light heavyweight world champion. So Cloud could arguably be the most accomplished fighter listed here. There is, however, one glaring problem: inactivity. Since appearing in New Faces, Cloud has only fought twice. Even so, he is THE RING's number-two 175-pound contender, thanks to the victory over Johnson. **Record: 21-0 (18)**

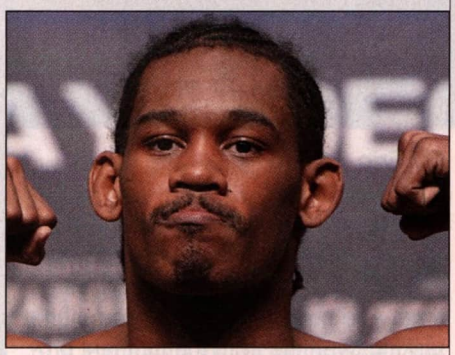
Victor Ortiz
junior welterweight (January 2009)

Ortiz came with a great backstory, a great smile, and a powerful punch. It's when someone punched back that the highly touted prospect had problems. Boxing could thank Ortiz for introducing

fans to Marcos Maidana, who took Ortiz' best blows and blasted back, stopping "Vicious Vic" in the sixth. Ortiz had some damage control issues to deal with when he was accused of "quitting" against Maidana, but he's responded nicely with victories over shopworn veterans Nate Campbell and Vivian Harris. Golden Boy still believes in Ortiz, but the jury is still deliberating on whether or not he'll become a star. **Record: 28-2-1 (22)**

Fernando Guerrero
middleweight (February 2009)

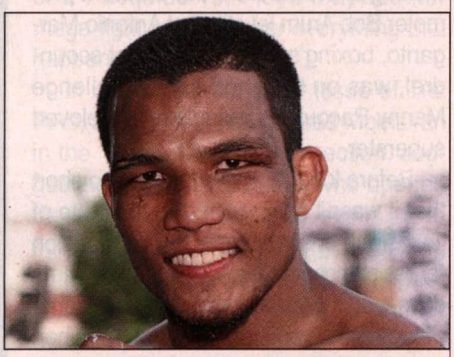
Guerrero has rock-star status in his hometown of Salisbury, Maryland, where he performs in front of sellout crowds. Since he appeared in New Faces, Guerrero has gone 9-0 (6) and continues to show steady improvement. In his three most-recent victories, he impressively stopped Jessie Nicklow and Michael Walker and won a close decision over tricky Ishe Smith. Guerrero is active, and Hal Chernoff, Guerrero's manager, seems to have the 24-year old heading in a good direction—maybe one day away from Salisbury. **Record: 19-0 (15)**



Daniel Jacobs
middleweight (March 2009)

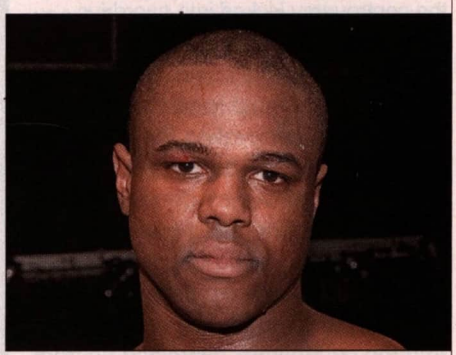
When The Ring first introduced Jacobs, he was a budding prospect with a great amateur past and what seemed like a bright future ahead. The last we saw of Jacobs, he was lucky if he knew the day of the week, after taking a bazooka shot from Dmitry Pirog and getting stopped in five rounds on the undercard of the Juan Manuel Marquez-Juan Diaz fight in July 2010. Although he had been showing promise in rising to the Pirog fight, that emphatic loss suggests that he might not be the superstar many had envisioned.

Record: 20-1 (17)



Saddam Kietyongyuth
junior welterweight (April 2009)

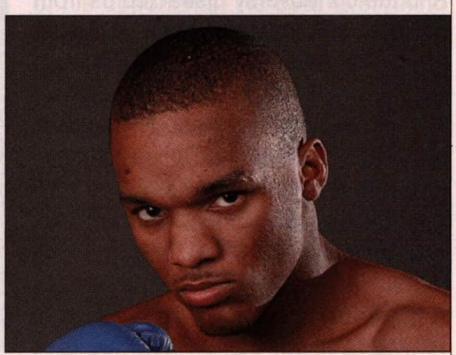
He's dropped to lightweight, fighting three times—all kayo wins—since he graced the pages of The Ring. Kietyongyuth won something called the WBC Asian Boxing Council lightweight title and has defended the trinket three times. His record indicates power, but Kietyongyuth continues to fight in Thailand and has yet to make an impact on the international scene. **Record: 20-0 (16)**



Tor Hamer
heavyweight (May 2009)

Hamer has an unusual past, his father Harvard educated, and Hamer himself with a business degree from Penn State. After suffering his first defeat, a six-round decision loss to undefeated Kelvin Price in May 2010, Hamer decided he is going to stick with boxing for a little longer and was scheduled to fight again in October. But don't be surprised if Hamer soon takes his college degree out of the mothballs.

Record: 11-1 (8)



Hylon Williams
junior lightweight (June 2009)

Williams has been bogged down with managerial issues and has not fought since December 2009. He won four decisions since appearing in The Ring but, for the time being, doesn't seem to have anything scheduled for the near future. **Record: 12-0 (3)** ■

A BAD

Protest All You Want, Pacquiao-

By Eric Raskin

Controversy is one hell of a multitasker. It attracts, detracts, and distracts, often all at the same time. And controversy has been multitasking overtime from the moment promoter Bob Arum let slip that Antonio Margarito, boxing's dirtiest, rottenest scoundrel, was on the short list to challenge Manny Pacquiao, boxing's most beloved superstar.

Before long, that short list got so short that it wasn't a list anymore, the state of Texas demonstrated how far its reputation for resistance has slipped since the Alamo days, and Pacquiao vs. Margarito became official for November 13. And that's when the controversy kicked into overdrive.

The controversy attracted attention, with the very same boxing writers and fans who were most fervently opposed to the matchup devoting the most column and message-board space to the bout. The controversy detracted from something that normally has no negatives attached to it, pound-for-pound king Manny Pacquiao putting his unique talents on display for the world to see. And the controversy distracted us from what will likely be the only story that matters on and after November 13: There's a boxing match to be fought, and it just might be a dangerous one for the best pugilist in the world.

Phrased another way: Don't look now, but there's a fight to analyze too!

It would be a bit much to go so far as to predict that Margarito, a fighter who was thoroughly dominated by Shane Mosley two fights ago and looked ordi-

PHOTO BY CHRIS FARINA/TOP RANK

WRAP

Margarito Is A Serious Fight

nary in his one comeback fight, is going to upset a man who regularly draws comparisons to the likes of Henry Armstrong. But Margarito doesn't necessarily have to defeat Pacquiao to make an imprint, not with the ongoing possibility of a Pacquiao vs. Floyd Mayweather mega-fight looming over everything that happens in the sport.

In the November 2010 issue of THE RING, a letter from reader Brad Morris ran in the "Come Out Writing" section, suggesting that Mayweather—who opened the door for Margarito by declining to fight Pacquiao—isn't outright ducking "Pac-Man" as much as he's waiting for the right time to fight him. "Remember what Ray Leonard did to Marvin Hagler years ago," Morris wrote. "He dangled a fight in front of him and then retired, letting Hagler get beat up in two wars with Thomas Hearns and John Mugabi. Leonard then unretired and set the terms of their encounter from the ring size to the length of the fight."

Morris might just be onto something. Pacquiao is one bad mutha these days. In his last five fights, there was only one round that all three judges gave to one of his opponents. He beat everything but the ability to curse out of David Diaz. He retired Oscar De La Hoya despite entering the fight as an overwhelming underdog. He scored a terrifying knockout of Ricky Hatton, who probably will never fight again either. He endured four thrilling rounds with Miguel Cotto to dominate the next eight and force a merciful final-round stoppage. And then he added Joshua Clottey's name to the list of bigger, stronger men he has handcuffed with

Two-way traffic: Although Pacquiao eventually gave Cotto a nasty beating (above) before stopping him in the 12th round, Pac-Man also absorbed punishment early in the fight (below), including a busted eardrum. Win or lose, Margarito could also inflict severe damage.

PHOTOS BY CHRIS COZZONE/FIGHTWIRE IMAGES

his speed, skill, and determination. If you were Mayweather and you had a perfect record to protect, why would you risk it against this version of Pacquiao if you believed the same payday would still be available later?

Lost amidst all that destruction caused by Pacquiao's fists in this recent run is that Cotto's fists did some damage as well. And Pacquiao was more marked up than he should have been considering how rarely Clottey touched him. These are big, strong guys, welterweights and junior middleweights who aren't exactly feather-fisted. Margarito fits that description also. It isn't far-fetched to think that Mayweather—as shrewd as he is lewd—sees some potential benefits in letting Pacquiao have another fight or two and maybe burn himself out ever so slightly before making record-setting money to fight him.

"It seems as if that's what Floyd's up to," conceded Pacquiao's trainer, Freddie Roach, who does still believe Pacquiao-Mayweather will happen eventually and said he'd prefer sooner to later. "But the thing is, inactivity is worse for a fighter than activity. Activity is going to keep Manny sharp, and Floyd's going to get stale. No way you can stay ready. Being in the gym is not enough; you need competition."

Obviously, Mayweather doesn't share that philosophy, announcing "retirements" and "vacations" more often than he announces fights these days. He fought once in 2010, once in '09, and not at all in '08. He doesn't think he "needs competition." But Pacquiao thrives on competition.

And the question becomes: Can Margarito provide the same sort of competition that Cotto did, inflicting damage and giving the Pacquiao fans a good scare before their hero takes over?

There are plenty of observers who say "no." Many of the same folks who insisted De La Hoya was too big and Cotto was too big have finally accepted that size isn't everything and have now perhaps swung too far the other way, declaring Margarito's size and strength utterly inconsequential.

Ultimately, though, what kind of chance you give Margarito probably depends on how much of his 38-6 (27) record you

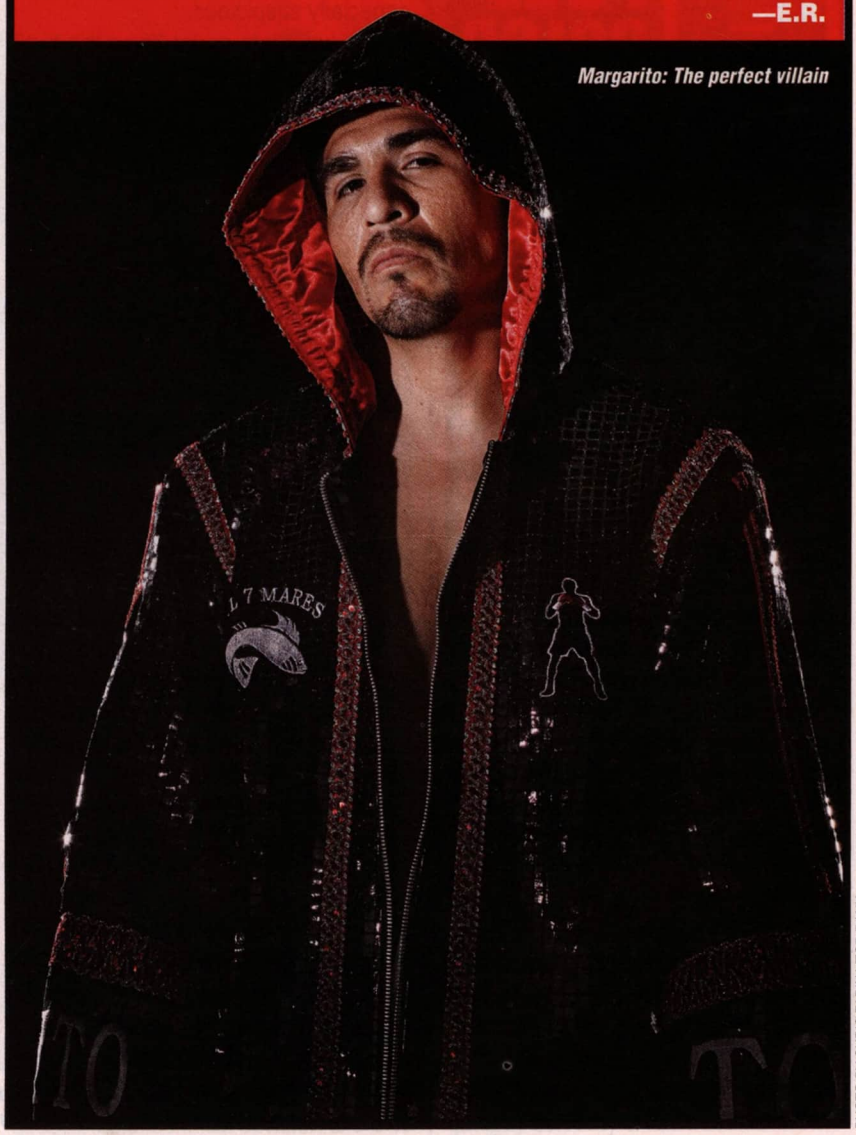
Angels & Demons

There are plenty of reasons to expect Pacquiao vs. Margarito to sell well, from Pacquiao's enormous popularity to the fan-friendly styles of both fighters to the publicity generated by Margarito's polarizing pursuit of a boxing license. But the biggest seller of all could be one that will also factor heavily into the selling of Pacquiao vs. Mayweather, if it ever happens: a simple good vs. evil conflict.

In most sports, you don't get to see the hero actually beat up the villain. With Pacquiao-Margarito, you'd better believe there will be people tuning in just to see Pac-Man give Margarito what he's got coming to him.

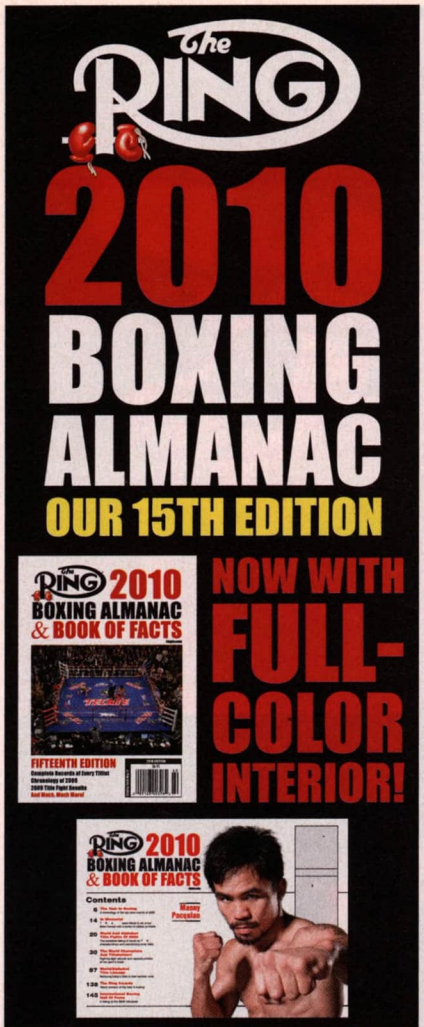
However, there's a twist in this good vs. evil showdown: At Cowboys Stadium, deep in the heart of Mexican-loving Texas, the crowd might actually side with the evildoer. Against Ghana's Clottey, Pacquiao had nothing to worry about in terms of crowd support. But many Mexican fans have remained loyal to Margarito despite his sullied reputation. So, while hundreds of thousands of folks will be sitting in their living rooms rooting for the white-hat-wearing Pacquiao to turn the black-hat-wearing Margarito black and blue, much of the live crowd might be hoping for the exact opposite.

—E.R.



Margarito: The perfect villain

PHOTO BY CHRIS FARINA/TOP RANK



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believe was built honestly and how much was built dishonestly.

Not to dwell too heavily on the controversial elements of this fight that many fans are tired of hearing about, but the facts must be quickly addressed: Prior to Margarito's January '09 fight with Mosley, his then-trainer, Javier Capetillo, was caught trying to load some sort of plaster-like material into his hand wraps. Margarito, fighting with legal wraps after Mosley trainer Nazim Richardson spotted the attempted cheating, got slaughtered by underdog Mosley. And then all of his past accomplishments were called into question. His 11th-round knockout of Cotto, in which Margarito fell behind then started hurting Cotto with almost every punch, while making his face resemble a side of beef that Rocky Balboa had just pounded on, looked especially suspicious.

But we might never know the truth. Margarito continues to plead ignorance. For now, all we have is speculation. *Margarito had to know what was in his hand wraps. This couldn't have been the first time Capetillo did this.* They're logical theories, but that's all they are. By the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation's loose standards, there wasn't sufficient reason to deny Margarito a license. So, like it or not, the man now known to many as "Margacheato" gets to be the B-side in one of 2010's most lucrative fights.

If you think Margarito without loaded gloves is the equivalent of the mighty Samson shorn, maybe you view him as nothing but a big, tattooed punching bag for Pacquiao to tee off on. But there is an opposing viewpoint worth considering here, if you believe there's some chance that Margarito's wins over Cotto, Clottey, Kermit Cintron, Sebastian Lujan, Antonio Diaz, a young Sergio Martinez, and other world-class foes were earned legitimately.

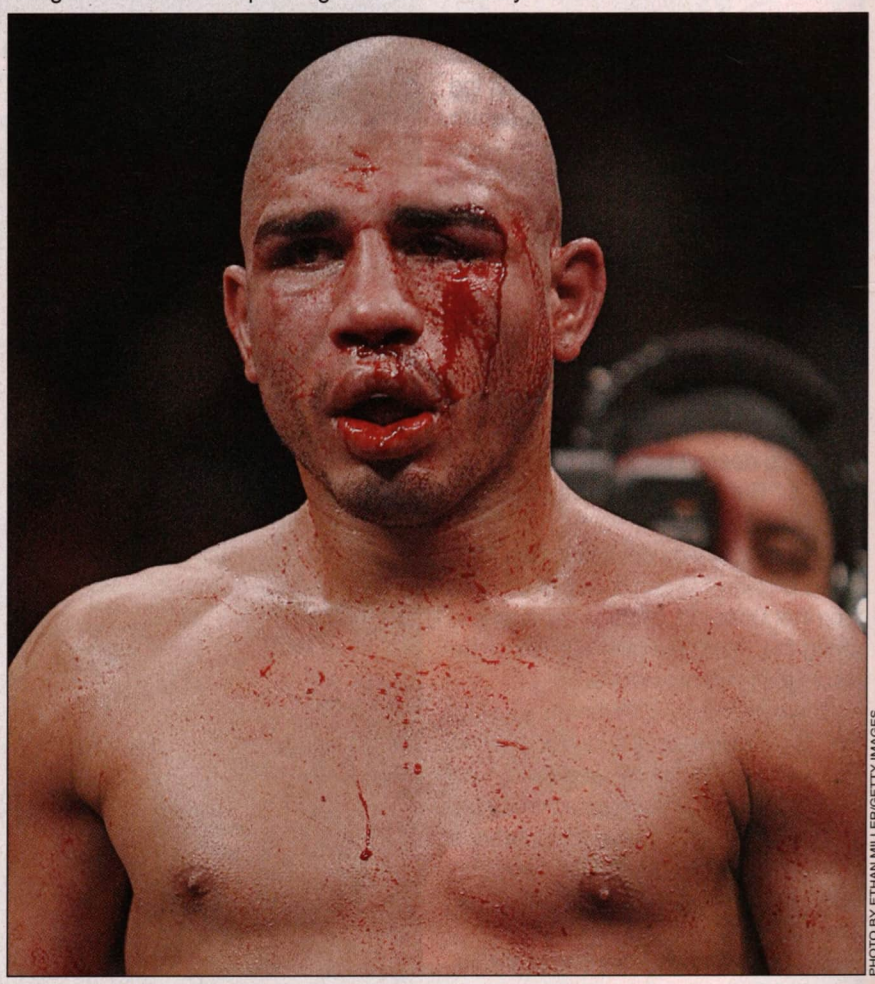


PHOTO BY ETHAN MILLER/GETTY IMAGES

We will probably never know for sure if Margarito's gloves were loaded when he busted up Cotto in their July 2008 fight, which ended in an 11th-round TKO victory for the "Tijuana Tornado."

The Hollowest Of History

If Pacquiao defeats Margarito, he will have won "major" titles in a record eight weight classes. And if you recognize Pac-Man as an eight-division champion, then you probably also put a "Dr." in front of Mike Tyson's name because he was awarded an honorary doctorate from Central State University in 1989.

As predictable as it was that Texas would rubber stamp Margarito's application for a boxing license, it was equally predictable that the WBC would approve Top Rank's request to sanction this fight for the vacant super welterweight (junior middleweight) title. Pacquiao has never fought as a junior middleweight. Margarito has fought as a junior middleweight exactly once in the last six years, outpointing clubfighter Roberto Garcia this past May. But, hey, there's a sanctioning fee to be had. So the WBC Board of Governors approved this as a "world" title fight by a unanimous vote.

Disturbing as that is, it's made worse by the fact that the title became vacant because the WBC stripped it from Sergio Martinez, a man who actually earned THE RING'S number-one ranking in the division. Martinez is out, and two guys with no track record in the weight class are in. Business as usual.

—E.R.

Apparently, not even Manny and Tony take the WBC trinket seriously

PHOTO BY CRAIG BENNETT/FIGHTWIRE IMAGES

Here are four reasons to think Margarito can at least be competitive against Pacquiao and do some of Mayweather's work for him:

1. Margarito wasn't himself against Mosley: Whether he was a knowing cheater or Capetillo's naïve puppet, the guy got busted for loading his gloves about a half-hour before entering the ring. How do you bring your A-game at that point? How do you focus fully on the task at hand? That was the only one-sided defeat Margarito has suffered in the last 14 years; the other losses were a narrow decision to Paul Williams and a questionable technical decision to Daniel Santos in Puerto Rico. It may be that we'll never again see Margarito perform as badly as he did against Sugar Shane.

2. Margarito dwarfs Pacquiao: No, size doesn't matter as much as the uninformed observer thinks it does, and certainly it doesn't matter at all if the bigger guy can't lay a hand on the smaller

Undercard Attractions

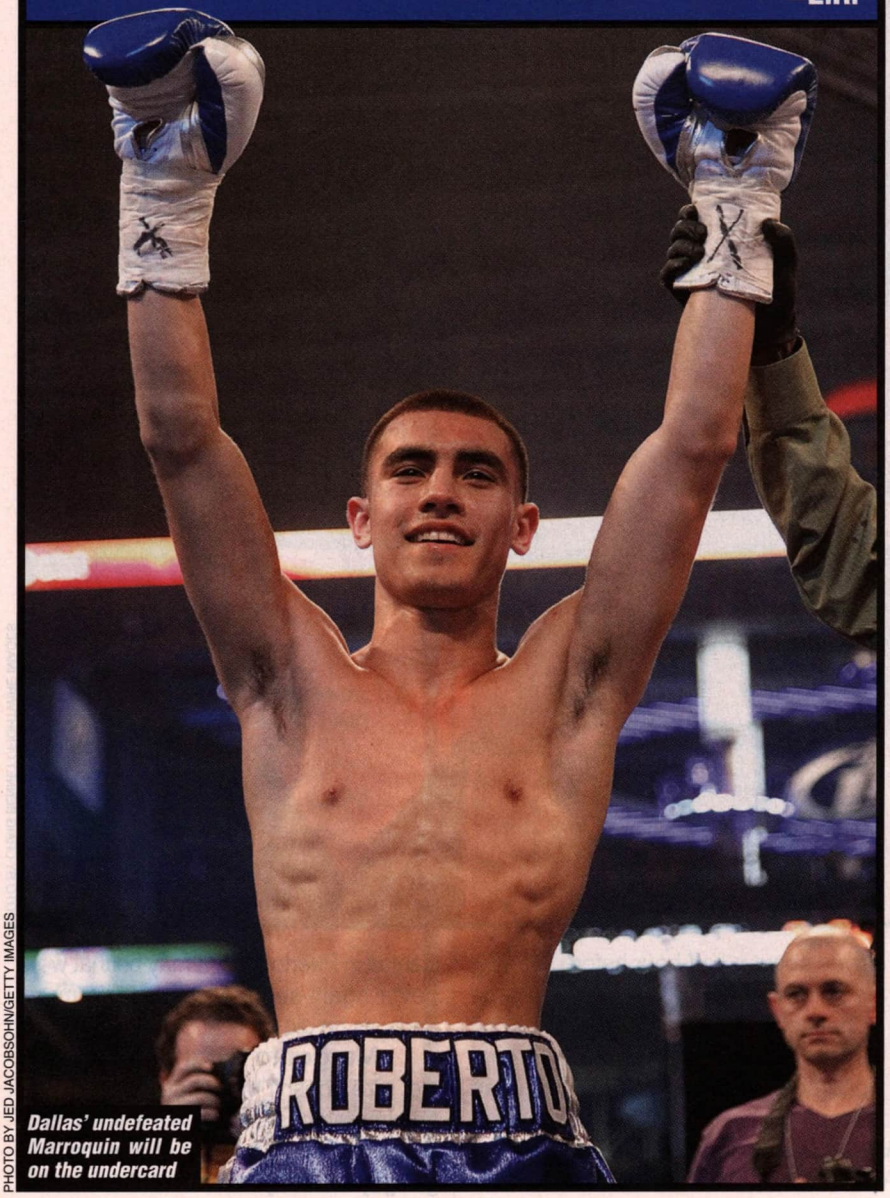
The Pacquiao-Margarito undercard was still being pieced together as this issue went to press, but one thing is certain: This show will have some star power underneath the main event.

There are two big names already signed up, comebacking former middleweight champion Kelly Pavlik and undefeated two-time Olympic gold medalist Guillermo Rigondeaux. Pavlik will be facing veteran Bryan Vera at super middleweight. Rigondeaux, who's only had six pro fights, is scheduled to take a major step up against three-time alphabet challenger Ricardo Cordoba.

And helping with the live gate will be undefeated Dallas prospect Roberto Marroquin, who also appeared on the off-TV undercard of Pacquiao-Clottey in March.

More details to come, but for now, we know Pacquiao and Margarito won't be the only boxers of consequence on the November 13 fight card.

—E.R.



Dallas' undefeated Marroquin will be on the undercard

PHOTO BY JED JACOBSOHN/GETTY IMAGES

guy. But still, it was hard not to gasp at the size differential when the fighters posed for staredown photos on the press tour. Pacquiao's eyes line up with the bottom of Margarito's mullet. The 5'11" Margarito weighed 154 pounds for his last fight, and he isn't coming all the way down to 147 like De La Hoya did. The catchweight here is 151. If it turns out Margarito can indeed punch hard without plaster in his mitts and if he manages to score even one of two flush connects, who knows, size and strength might play a role just when public sentiment on the subject has finally swung the other way.

3. Margarito has everything to prove: We've been over the fact that Margarito's record is now littered with asterisks. If he doesn't win at least one significant fight post-Mosley, then his legacy will be that of a cheater who never *really* beat anybody.

"There's a lot of negative people in the business that just don't believe him," Margarito's new trainer, Robert Garcia, said at the Los Angeles stop on the press tour. "This is the time for him to prove everybody wrong, show that he's a real fighter and show that he doesn't have to cheat to win fights. And this is the perfect fight, the pound-for-pound best fighter in the world."

4. Pacquiao is more distracted than ever: Pac-Man has always been more than just a boxer. For a while, the pool halls were his mistress. Then it became making movies and recording albums. And though he's never let those things cost him a victory in the ring, the distractions are more serious now. Pacquiao is a congressman in his native Philippines. That's not a hobby or a brief project-based job. It's a real commitment—and, by all accounts, Pacquiao is really committed to it. He's not just happy to have won the election. Congressman Pacquiao recently made a speech about the importance of getting funding to fight the human trafficking problem in the Philippines (in the last seven years, 800 cases have come under investigation, but, due to the absence of a budget, only 18 have reached the conviction stage). And he made a push to set up his training camp for the Margarito fight inside the premises of the Lower House of Congress in Quezon City so

that he could devote maximum time to both jobs (though the idea was ultimately abandoned after House Speaker Feliciano Belmonte said it wasn't a good idea).

There is precedent for Pacquiao failing to give certain fights his full, undivided attention. Lax training nearly got him knocked out against Oscar Larios in 2006, and he half-assed it against Jorge Solis in '07 because he knew he could afford to. Could the same thing possibly happen against Margarito, an opponent whom the sports books have installed as about a 5-1 underdog?

"No, we're going against a bigger, stronger guy, and Manny's not going to take him lightly," Roach said. "You know, Larios and Solis were mediocre-type

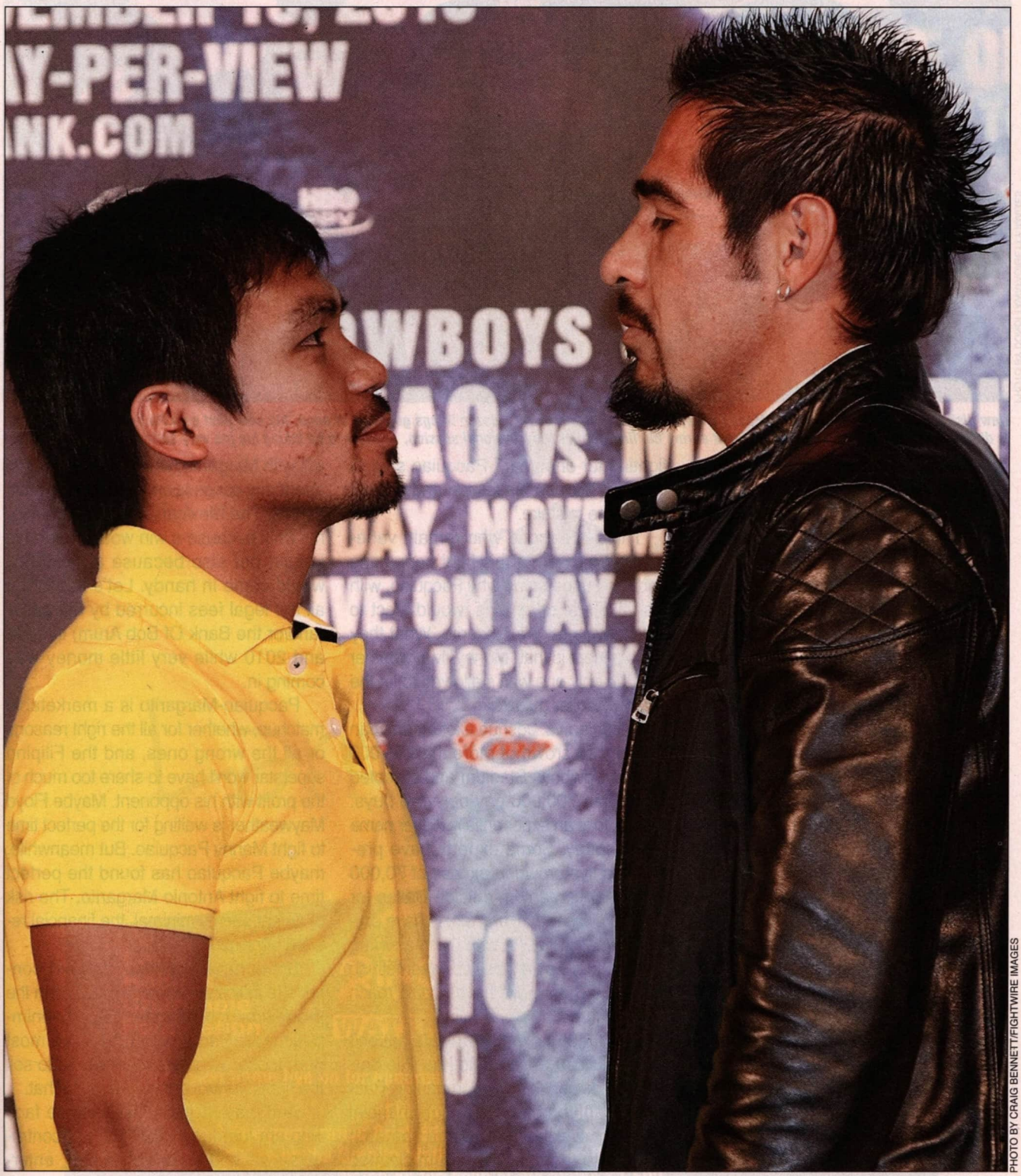


PHOTO BY CRAIG BENNETT/FIGHTWIRE IMAGES

Tall order: The height disparity between Pacquaio and Margarito really came into focus the first time when they posed together at the Los Angeles press conference that kicked off their mini-publicity campaign in August. Whether or not Pac-Man can chop Margarito down to size remains to be seen.

PHOTO BY DONDI TAWATAO/GETTY IMAGES

New distraction: While multitasking Manny always seems to have at least a dozen things going on at once, his new post as a Philippine Congressman is different, especially as Pacquiao, pictured during the first regular congressional session, appears to be taking his job very seriously.

opponents. This is not a mediocre-type opponent. This guy's world-class; he's a lot bigger man. We'll have no problem getting Manny motivated for this fight, none whatsoever.

"Manny's always been a multitasker. He's always got something going on during training camp. He's trying to do his best as a congressman, but he does understand that what he does best is boxing. He has not lost sight of that yet."

Certainly, Pacquiao's comments at the various press stops suggest he's not looking past Margarito. He's said he expects a tougher fight than Clottey gave him (no great stretch there) and that Margarito's height and reach advantages could present problems.

The comments that really drew attention, however, were the ones about Margarito's cheating scandal and continued insistence that he was Capetillo's innocent patsy. "I don't believe him," Pacquiao said. "Of course he knew about [the hand wraps]. It's his hands, and he watches the taping."

Many fans and experts were outraged that Pacquiao would give this opportunity to someone he believes was knowingly loading his gloves, but politician Pacquiao explained simply his stance on the matter. "He paid his dues by sacrificing and not fighting for one year," Pacquiao said. "I hope he learned his lesson and will not repeat the mistake."

There are those who remain vehemently opposed to this fight happening and can't understand why Pacquiao, with his multitude of options, would elect to square off against Margarito. What they fail to accept is that "Money" Mayweather isn't the only one who's allowed to let the almighty dollar guide him.

Pacquiao vs. Joshua Clottey drew an announced crowd of more than 51,000 fans to Cowboys Stadium and attracted more than 700,000 pay-per-view buys. Margarito is an exponentially bigger name than Clottey. Some experts have predicted a live crowd in excess of 70,000 at the same stadium outside Dallas for Pacquiao-Margarito, and others have estimated that the PPV, with the marketing power of HBO's *24/7* behind it (something the Clottey fight didn't have), could reach seven figures.

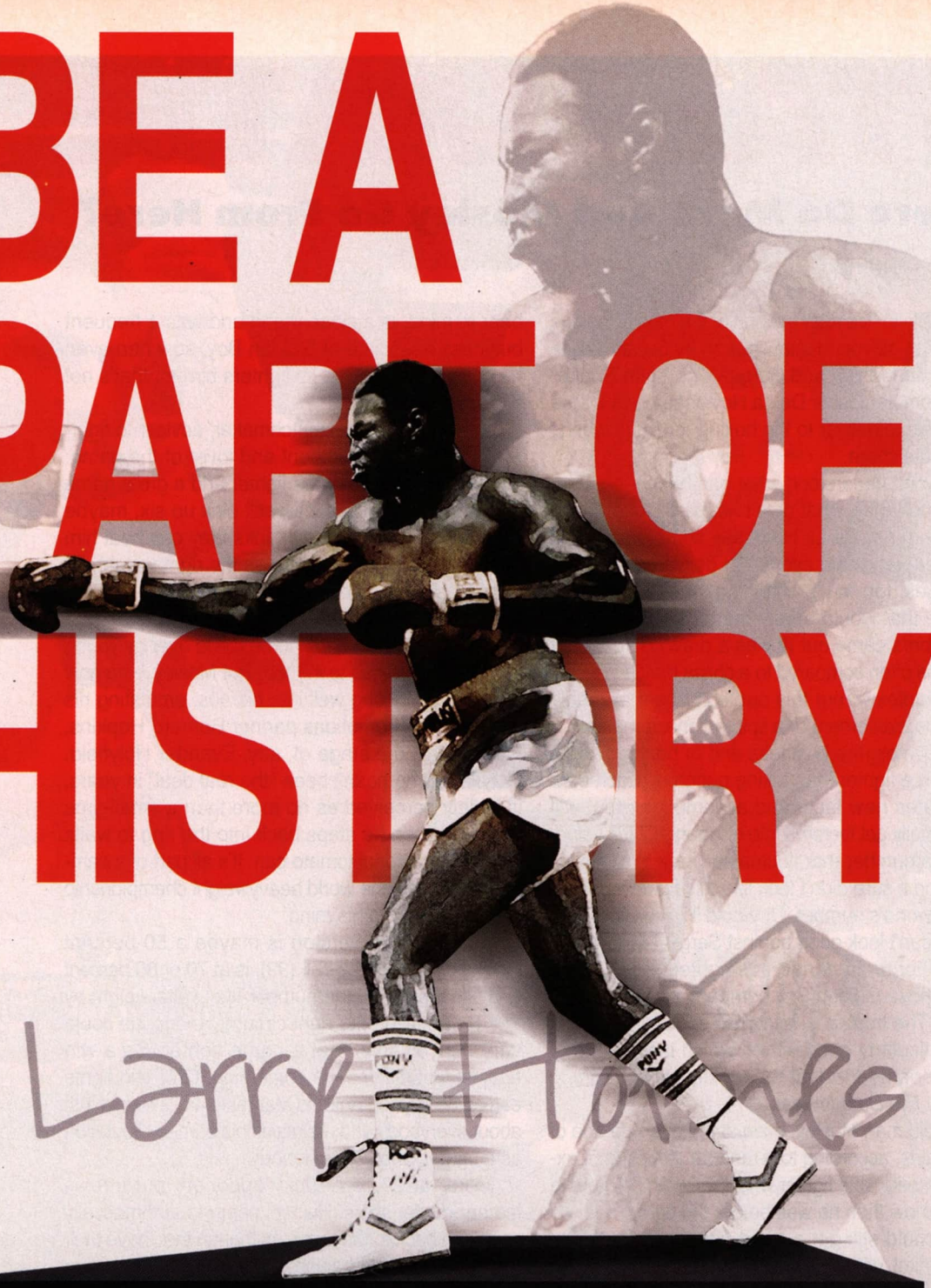
And though exact financials haven't been disclosed, Margarito has little bargaining power right now, meaning Pacquiao can command a major financial imbalance in his favor. In a rematch with Cotto (another fight Arum claimed to be considering), Pacquiao probably wouldn't get so lopsided a split as he will with Margarito, who would make just about any concession for a chance such as this. The Mexican needs the chance not only because a win would rehab his image, but also because a paycheck would come in handy. Let's not forget all the legal fees incurred by Margarito (and/or the Bank Of Bob Arum) in 2009 and 2010 while very little money was coming in.

Pacquiao-Margarito is a marketable matchup, whether for all the right reasons or all the wrong ones, and the Filipino superstar won't have to share too much of the profit with his opponent. Maybe Floyd Mayweather is waiting for the perfect time to fight Manny Pacquiao. But meanwhile, maybe Pacquiao has found the perfect time to fight Antonio Margarito. The risk of defeat seems minimal, the financial reward enormous.

Some have criticized, and will continue to criticize, everyone involved in the promotion, including the usually unimpeachable Pacquiao. But for the most part, those critics are just helping to sell the fight. Controversy tends to do that.

And maybe, just maybe, those fans who are lured in by the scent of controversy will end up seeing a real, entertaining, two-sided fight for their money. Imagine that. ■

BE A PART OF HISTORY



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STALEMATE!

Where Do Mora And Mosley Go From Here?

By Ivan Goldman

Minutes after the end of the mostly tedious 12-round show put on by Sugar Shane Mosley and Sergio "The Latin Snake" Mora, promoter Oscar De La Hoya searched for the right words to deliver to the boxing media. It wasn't an enviable chore.

Everyone understood what had happened, and, more importantly, what didn't happen. But protocol demanded that De La Hoya say something about a pay-per-view main event that delivered very few exchanges, too much clinching, and a scorecard outcome that would barely matter no matter how the numbers came out (it was a draw). The Sweet Science is often compared to a chess match in terms of its complexity, but this particular fight arguably lacked the excitement of a spirited chess match.

Sometimes, the business end of boxing can be harder on a fighter than taking punches. Each contest creates new facts and assumptions that will automatically get factored into his marketplace value, a relative number that fluctuates like a Wall Street stock, and it sure didn't look like this fight would improve anyone's number. Or would it?

"You can't look good against Sergio Mora, who's a game fighter, a dangerous fighter," said De La Hoya, whose Golden Boy company promotes both fighters. The trouble is, except in spots, Mora didn't look particularly good either, which is why the 12 rounds seemed to last longer than the wedding scene in *The Deer Hunter*.

Still, old man Mosley, even at the overripe age of 39, remains, according to a random sampling of experts, a marketable fighter who may even be more in demand now than he was before the fight.

"He could still get a good payday," concluded Shelly Finkel, until recently one of the most powerful, successful managers out there. "As for Mora, he's a boring fighter, and he did nothing to change my opinion on that."

Now wait a minute. Mora's a nice kid who used the bulk of his million-dollar prize from *The Contender* TV show to buy a house for his mom in Downey, California. When she refused to quit her job, he called her boss and told her he was retiring her from the work force.

"But that has nothing to do with boxing," replied Finkel with all the tenderness of a lifelong New Yorker. The boxing biz is not for squeamish types. Finkel, bear in mind, is a close friend and was a frequent business associate of Golden Boy, so when even he pronounces one of its fighters boring, that's not a good sign.

Said Don Elbaum, matchmaker, advisor to fighters, and long-time student and lover of the game: "Mosley is a Hall of Fame fighter and a great name to beat. Overseas, he can still pick up six, maybe seven figures. Everybody thinks they can beat him now. If I had a fighter who was the right weight, I'd want Mosley as an opponent."

What Elbaum seemed to describe was a stepping stone, a speed bump to be rolled over by young fighters on the road to the top. But Mosley, who now talks about fighting well into his 40s, emulating his Golden Boy Promotions partner Bernard Hopkins, is not yet at the stage of, say, Evander Holyfield. Holyfield, who hasn't been "the real deal" in years, is widely perceived as no more than a small-time curiosity when he steps back into the ring to waltz with an occasional tomato can. It's all part of a campaign to regain the world heavyweight championship that exists only in his mind.

But the 2010 version is maybe a 50-percent Holyfield. Mosley, 46-6-1 (39), is at 70 or 80 percent and still ranked as the number-five welterweight by THE RING. Given the right circumstances, he could very conceivably beat a name fighter. So a win against him still means something. Only two fights earlier, he kayoed Antonio Margarito. He's fought just about everybody and maintains his earned reputation as a fighter who ducks nobody.

Mora, at 29, is a tricky opponent but throws feather-duster shots. His feet seem to automatically carry him back to the ropes as though they have their own guidance mechanism. Clinching and retreating are major components in his repertoire, but then he snaps out enough clever shots to let everyone know he's no chump. Although he eked out a draw against Mosley, he did little to cement his standing in the world of big-time boxing.

In these tough economic times, it's a particularly bad moment to be perceived as a boring fighter. If a prime Roy Jones was still fighting today, it's very unlikely HBO would compliantly carry his fight with Richard Frazier, a cop who moonlighted as a boxer. ESPN, which bought the US rights to heavyweight champ Wladimir Klitschko's last bout, carried it only

PHOTO BY NAOKI FUKUDA

as an Internet attraction deemed less worthy than the World Series of Poker or NASCAR's Sylvania 300. HBO and Showtime wouldn't even bid for it. And that's the heavyweight champion of the world, who knocks people out pretty consistently.

Still, it's not absolutely impossible for Mora, a handsome, well-spoken young man from East LA, to make some kind of promotional comeback and win a seat at the big table again.

"I wouldn't use the word 'never' for either Mora or Mosley," competing promoter Dan Goossen generously said. After all, in boxing, leopards can sometimes change their spots. Slugger Marco Antonio Barrera turned himself into a baffling, tricky boxer. Manny Pacquiao learned to use his right hand. Mora's only 29. His record now stands at a quite decent 22-1-2 (6), and he doesn't have the wear and tear that comes early to brawlers.

As for Mosley, because he's slowed down some, he could actually become more exciting. A boxer-puncher like him could find himself slugging it out when his legs will no longer carry him away from danger. In this business that's called fan-

PHOTO BY NAOKI FUKUDA

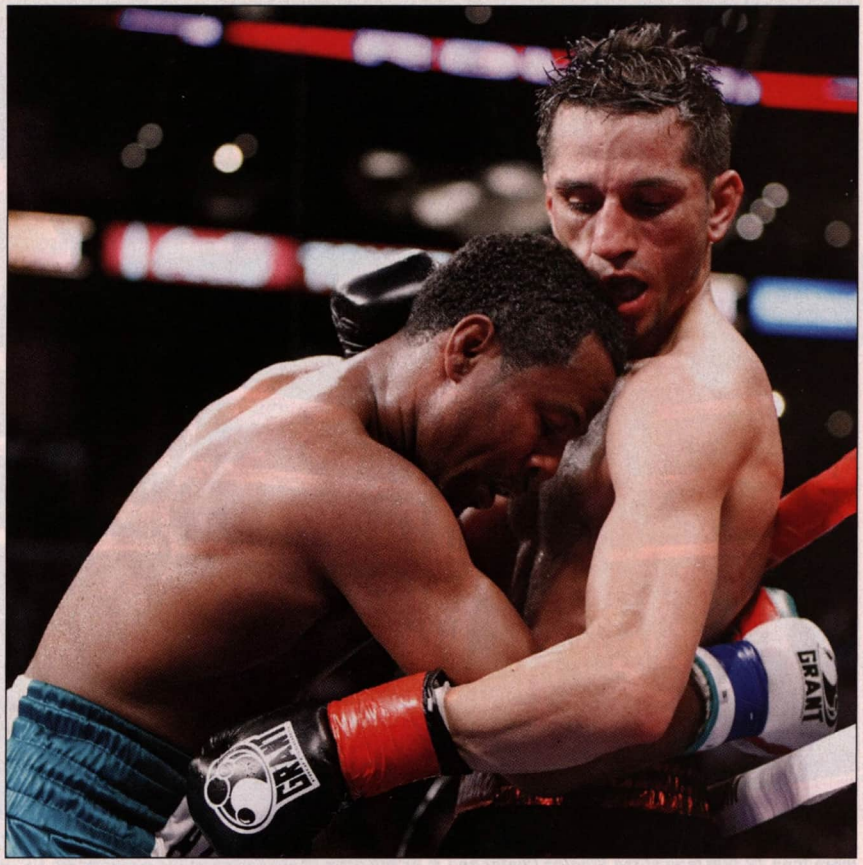
This exchange of left hooks between Mosley and Mora makes their 12-round draw look like a thriller. Unfortunately, the clash of style did not make for an entertaining fight or a definitive verdict. The undercard, however, featured a number of slugfests.

friendly. Still, you also detect faint traces of self-delusion in his attitude.

"I fought my heart out," he said. "Usually, I get the knockout. It didn't happen." In his last six fights, Mosley has scored a total of two stoppages. In the other four bouts, he scored two losses, a draw, and one decision victory. On the other hand, many, but certainly not all ringsiders thought Mosley did deserve a decision over Mora *(See accompanying sidebar on the scoring debate).*

The card marked the 200th anniversary of Mexico's independence from Spain, and, though Mosley wore Mexico's colors on his trunks in celebration, it may have been the wrong night and the wrong place to get a decision over a fighter of Mexican heritage.

Both Mosley and Mora had the hard luck to appear on the same card with Mexican prodigy Saul "Canelo" Alvarez and Carlos Baldomir. Fighting also in the junior middleweight division, the two men put on an exciting battle that ended in the sixth round when a devastating hook from Alvarez, 34-0 (26), sent Baldomir, 45-13-6 (14), to the canvas face first and unconscious. Alvarez-versus-



Both Mosley (above) and Mora (below) were guilty of way too much grabbing and holding. It made for an untidy fight, which was an anticlimax after an action-packed undercard.

PHOTOS BY CRAIG BENNETT/FIGHTWIRE IMAGES

PHOTO BY NAOKI FUKUDA

Referee Jose Cobian sends Saul Alvarez to a neutral corner before counting out Carlos Baldomir in the sixth round. "Canelo" made a huge hit with the more than 13,000 fans at the Staples Center and is on the cusp of becoming as big a star in the US as he is in Mexico.

Murderous-punching Daniel Ponce De Leon lured Antonio Escalante into a slugfest that ended when Escalante was counted out at the 2:40 mark of the third round. The impressive victory was Ponce De Leon's sixth win since losing to Juan Manuel Lopez in 2008.

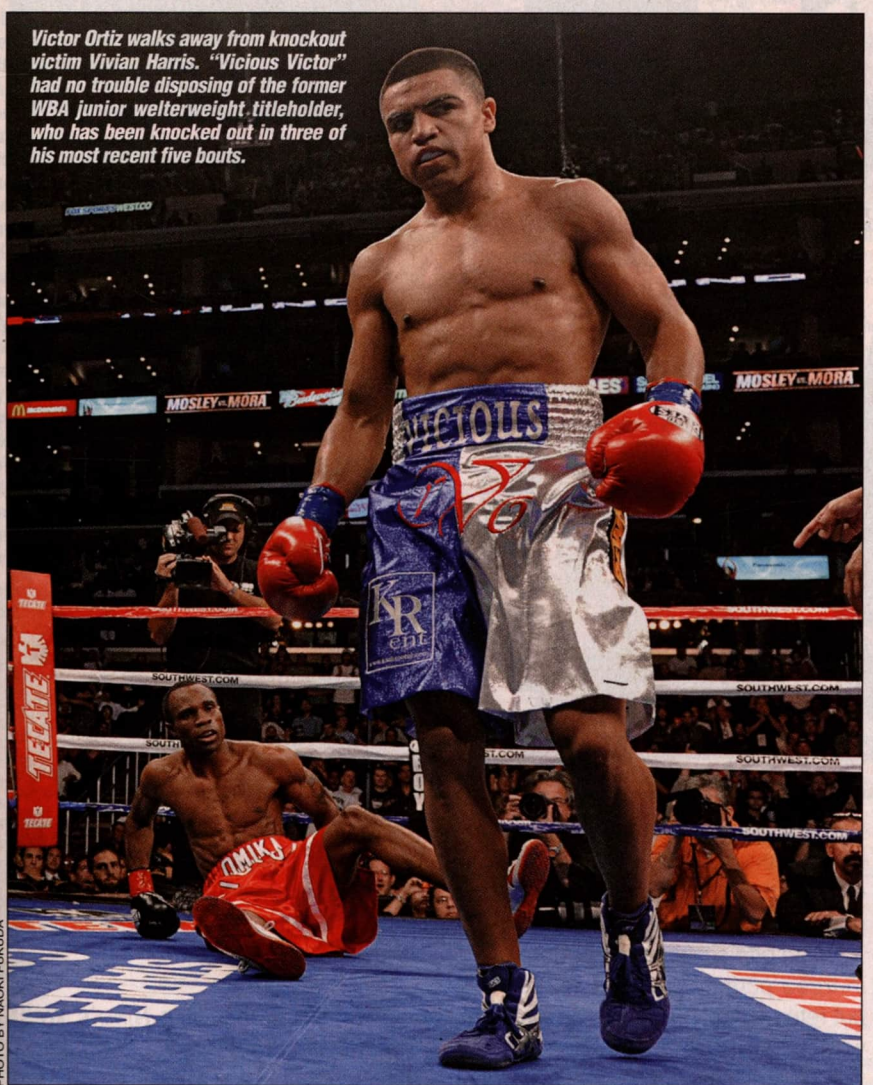
PHOTO BY NAOKI FUKUDA

Baldomir was to Mosley-versus-Mora as hang gliding is to canasta. Canelo, only 20, fought like the next Julio Cesar Chavez (bleached very white with red hair), a phantom treasure that promoters have been feverishly hunting for the last 15 years.

Baldomir, 39, whose photo could appear in the dictionary next to the word "tough," said nobody had ever hit him as hard as Alvarez. Everything Alvarez did brought cheers from the Los Angeles Staples Center crowd of 13,591. After his victory, he may have drawn more applause just walking over to be interviewed by a Mexican TV reporter than Mora or Mosley got all night.

The *Los Angeles Times*, apparently informed that boxing still exists after all, published a front-page feature on Alvarez during fight week. Neither Mosley nor Mora received such exalted coverage. Goossen, when he heard Alvarez compared to Mexican national hero Chavez, cautioned, "You don't want to anoint anyone too soon. Sometimes people never anointed at all end up doing great things. But any fighter who brings attention to our sport in a good way is beneficial to all of us. There's enough out there for everybody."

Alvarez' outing was reminiscent of hard-hitting Fernando Vargas, at age 21, lifting a junior middleweight title off heavy-handed Yory Boy Campas. But Vargas was subsequently moved too soon and never quite the same after Felix Trinidad stopped him in a vicious, foul-filled battle less than two years later. De La Hoya, aware that Alvarez could be a precious resource, won't be pairing him up with a Trinidad-class fighter anytime soon. Canelo, he said, "is ready for the champions, but now is not the time." Down the line,



Victor Ortiz walks away from knockout victim Vivian Harris. "Vicious Victor" had no trouble disposing of the former WBA junior welterweight titleholder, who has been knocked out in three of his most recent five bouts.

PHOTO BY NAOKI FUKUDA

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The Inexact Science of Scoring

Scoring the Shane Mosley-Sergio Mora fight was no walk in the park. That can be the story in largely uneventful contests as well as fierce battles. More than a few rounds could have gone either way, depending on your angle and your view of what makes for a winning round. Judge David Denkin had it 116-112 Mosley (as did THE RING), Kermit Bayless called it 115-113 Mora, and Lou Moret ruled it 114-114, cinching the draw.

Although most of the media scored it for Mosley, more than a few saw it for Mora, and a smaller but fairly sizeable sample saw it as a draw. RingTV's Doug Fischer said he called nine rounds for Mora because he felt Mosley's punches were mostly ineffective and that Mora's landed with authority. This reporter scored eight rounds for Mosley because several rounds were even in terms of punching, but, with Mora backing to the ropes, I gave them to Sugar Shane for being more aggressive. Neither correspondent appears to consider the other a crackpot. CompuBox, which can never tell you the whole story, calculated that Mosley landed 31 percent of 522 punches and Mora connected with 18 percent of 508.

Each fighter thought he did enough to win, but their disagreement was eminently civilized. Mosley was almost oddly dispassionate. If he didn't get his knockout, he didn't seem to care how the judges saw it. HBO's pay-per-view team of analysts apparently thought the judges had robbed Mosley of everything but his teeth.

—I.G.

Mosley-Mora: Tough to score

PHOTO BY CRAIG BENNETT/FIGHTWIRE IMAGES

he could very conceivably meet up with a speed bump named Mosley.

Except for the main event, everyone agreed the card was a thorough success. De La Hoya and Richard Schaefer had no reason to be glum, and they weren't. They also televised junior welter Victor Ortiz' destruction of Vivian Harris inside of three rounds and featherweight Daniel Ponce De Leon's tremendous third-round kayo of Antonio Escalante, who bravely elected to slug it out with a slugger and paid the price.

In an odd scale incident, Mora came in three pounds over the limit of 154, but returned an hour later and made the weight. He and his team insisted the scale was off and that he'd been at the proper weight for 10 days. Still, the California commission fined Mora $57,000, payable to Mosley, a 39-year-old fighter who may still have a future, even if it's not as bright as his past. ■

Ivan Goldman, THE RING's West Coast correspondent, was ringside at the Staples Center for Mora-Mosley.

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THE BATTLE

Can Harrison Ru

By Gavin Evans

David Haye knows that Audley Harrison doesn't deserve a shot at the WBA title and that beating his countryman will do nothing colorful for his career. But he also knows something else: Aside from the Klitschko brothers, there is no other opponent who can match the man known as "A-Force" and sometimes as "Fraudley" when it comes to attracting British punters. As Haye put it: "Nobody has ever stopped me in the street to ask me to bash up Tomasz Adamek or Ruslan Chagaev. Plenty have asked me to do that to Audley."

But before getting onto the man British boxing fans love to hate, two views on why Haye isn't stepping up to face a Klitschko or two.

Let's start with the Gospel According to Saint Wladimir. "He bitched out on me and then he bitched out on my brother," Wlad said after their original bouts were scuppered. "He lied about his injury, and then he lied to the last moment and pulled out of the fight with my brother to take the Valuev fight. That pissed me off."

When negotiations collapsed for a title unification bout this year, the Klitschkos accused Haye of turning his back on a legitimate and generous 50-50 purse offer with no options attached. They claimed he had no valid excuse and branded him "yellow."

Unusually, Haye kept silent for a while, but eventually responded. He insists the back injury that forced the cancellation of the 2009 bout with Wladimir was legitimate and that he chose to challenge Valuev rather than Vitali because he received a far better financial offer with less onerous options. Addressing his fans on YouTube, he blamed the failure of the 2010 negotiations on the Ukrainians, saying he demanded a 50-50 split, but

PHOTO BY MICHAEL STEELE/GETTY IMAGES

OF BRITAIN in Haye's Reign?

PHOTO BY JOHN GICHIGI/GETTY IMAGES

Klitschko rejected it, citing conditions laid down by his German TV contract. "I then said, 'Okay, you keep 100 percent of German television money and I keep 100 percent of UK TV money. And we split everything else 50-50.' He didn't answer that. So I gave him two options, and he flat out refused both of them."

One other possibility is that Haye, who's still under contract to the German-based Sauerland Promotions (they secured a two-fight option from the Valuev fight), would prefer to go into a high-risk showdown with a Klitschko without having to share the spoils. When the Klitschkos refused an even split of the television revenues, the Haye camp withdrew, knowing they could return to the table next year from a stronger position when the brothers (now aged 34 and 39) are that much older.

So in stepped Harrison, who for most of his career has been the premier booboy for the British boxing public, partly because of the hubris he showed in the early part of his stop-start career, but mainly because of his failure to deliver after winning the 2000 Olympic super heavyweight gold medal. Even so, Harrison, 27-4 (20), is the only active boxer other than Haye, 24-1 (22), and Amir Khan who is a household name in Britain, and the WBA titlist has milked this for all its worth—and more.

"Beating Audley does nothing for my career," Haye acknowledged, "but it gives me satisfaction and will give his haters that warm, fuzzy feeling they're craving again. If Audley thinks he's been beaten before, he's got another thing coming. I'm going to destroy him."

The 29-year-old WBA titleholder is sharp-witted, good-looking, and eloquent, and he certainly has a knack for building a fight, even if he's prone to straying over lines of good taste. When scheduled to

fight Wladimir Klitschko, he enraged the brothers by producing pictures of himself holding their severed heads. In the build-up to the Valuev fight, he described the Russian giant as "smelly, ugly, hairy, and sweaty." For Harrison, he has already plumbed fresh depths, even by his own bottom drawer standards. He predicted the fight would be a "public execution" and that Audley's hospital bills would be more than his purse and that it would be "as one-sided as a gang rape," prompting condemnation from rape victim charities and much of the media.

Harrison, in comparison, has been relatively dignified, but his hatred of Haye shines through. He claims he took Haye under his wing as an amateur before encouraging him as a young professional and setting the example that prompted Haye to go it alone under "Hayemaker" promotions, only to be snubbed and disrespected later on.

"If David Haye thinks I've taken this fight strictly for a payday, he is in for a rude awakening," Harrison said. "He is a guy I groomed. I have tasted his punches and power, and he never hurt me in training session. When I land my left hand on him, he is done."

One contributor to a BBC radio show took heed of the swapped insults and put it in perspective. "Oh dear, the heavyweight division has sunk to a new low! I will be intrigued to see it though." By November 13, the whole country will be intrigued, and the fight is guaranteed to sell out the MEN Arena in Manchester and to attract an unprecedented number of pay-per-view punters to Sky Television's broadcast.

So the fight makes sense for Haye as lucrative filler before negotiations with the Klitschkos resume next year, provided he wins. And for Harrison, at the age of 38, it is his final option to crack the big time. And those who say he's an absolute no-hoper might do well to recall that the same things were said when he announced he would win the Olympic gold medal following several dire amateur defeats. On that occasion, Audley fought with a damaged right hand, but returned with the gold.

When Harrison turned professional in 2001, on the back of that hyper-publicized Olympic triumph, he decided to promote

PHOTO BY JOHN GICHIGI/GETTY IMAGES

Harrison was the toast of Great Britain after winning the super heavyweight gold medal at the 2000 Olympics. His amateur success earned him a lucrative contract with the BBC, but Harrison's pro career flopped and he has been struggling to remain relevant.

Haye became the UK's latest heavyweight hero when he outpointed Nicolay Valuev to capture the WBA heavyweight title in November 2009. Along with Amir Khan, Haye is one of the few British boxers with crossover appeal.

PHOTO BY ALEX GRIMM/BONGARTS/GETTY IMAGES

himself, thereby making enemies with other promoters who had courted him, particularly Frank Warren who seldom missed an opportunity to slag him off.

Harrison set up "A-Force Promotions" and secured a million-pound (the equivalent of $2-million at the time) deal with the BBC to televise his fights, always insisting on the status of the main event fighter. He made bold predictions—the British title within eight fights, then the whole wide world—but several of his early performances were underwhelming and his choice of opponents was cautious.

PHOTO BY ALEXANDER HASSENSTEIN/BONGARTS/GERMANY

What went wrong depends on whose story you believe, but the bottom line is that Haye's proposed bouts with Wladimir and Vitali Klitschko never happened. Instead, Haye has settled for his homegrown rival, Harrison.

The result was that he irritated the boxing pubic. But as long as he was winning, he could claim it was all part of the master plan. After four injury-slowed years, he was 19-0 and had beaten a few unbeaten prospects, including Pole Tomasz Bonin and a handful of halfway respectable Americans (the best of whom was Robert Davis). But then the wheels came off. The BBC, under new management, decided it wanted nothing more to do with "A-Force" or professional boxing, and a despondent Harrison had to accept a Warren-promoted deal to face British champion Danny Williams. He broke his left hand in the early rounds and looked terrible. Scared and

uninspired, after being dropped, Harrison lost a split decision.

Soon after, with his confidence shattered, he sparred with Haye who, according to Harrison, took liberties. Or as Haye put it: "Audley has known me for years. He knows how devastating I am in the ring. He knows it firsthand from sparring sessions."

In his next bout, Harrison looked timid and lethargic in losing a decision to Dominick Guinn, and it seemed to be all over for the big southpaw.

He returned to Britain for a fight he had to win, a return with Williams, and this time, with his back to the wall, he delivered with an emphatically one-sided three-round knockout victory. His next bout was supposed to be against Matt Skelton for the British title, but Skelton was injured and the former champion, Michael Sprott, stepped in. Harrison duly dropped him in the first round and seemed on his way to victory before one huge hook separated him from his senses at the end of the third round.

What appeared to be the final nail came in December 2008 when Harrison dropped a close decision to unbeaten Irishman Martin Rogan. Although he had some classy moments, his two key flaws—a low work rate and a reluctance to engage and take chances—cost him the decision by a single point. As Rogan put it after hearing about the Haye date: "If Harrison had a bit of courage to go with his punch, he would definitely have been worthy of his title shot."

Harrison was down-and-out after this defeat, but last October, he was given a lifeline by promoter Barry Hearn, who offered him a slot in his "Prizefighter" tournament. After three wins in one night, Audley was back. Hearn secured him a shot at Albert Sosnowski's European title. But the Pole vacated to challenge Vitali Klitschko, and Harrison's old rival, Michael Sprott, stepped in.

In the second round, Audley tore the muscles in his right shoulder (later requiring reconstructive surgery), meaning that he fought completely one-handed. He took a beating, but showed unexpected courage in fighting on through severe

PHOTO BY LEON NEAL/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Harrison's recent comeback climaxed when he knocked out Michael Sprott in April 2010 to win the European heavyweight title. If he can hit Haye with the sort of left hook that finished Sprott, "A-Force" could spring a huge upset.

PHOTO BY ANDREW YATES/GETTY IMAGES

Haye has not fought since he defended the WBA trinket with a ninth-round TKO of John Ruiz in April. The match attracted a large crowd to the MEN Arena in Manchester, and the Harrison bout is sure to do likewise. British pay-per-view, via Sky Television, should also do well in the UK.

pain. In the final round, when Sprott resumed his attack, Harrison launched a huge, desperate left hook that landed flush on the jaw. It was several minutes before Sprott woke up.

Audley Harrison was European champion, just about enough of a springboard to secure the WBA title shot when Haye's unification bout with Klitschko fell through.

"I still don't believe he deserves a shot at my title as he simply hasn't achieved enough," said Haye, "but he's coming off a career-best win, and, just like Frank Bruno when he fought Lennox Lewis, is a household name in this country."

So, does Audley have any chance of pulling it off? The answer has to be a very tentative yes, although Haye deserves to be a prohibitive favorite.

At 6'5", Harrison is 2½" taller than Haye, has a wingspan of 86-inches (an inch more than Valuev, six inches more than Vitali Klitschko, and eight inches more than Haye), and he should have a weight advantage of about 30 pounds. He possesses relatively quick hands for a big man and he certainly has the power in that southpaw left cross to knock out Haye. He will also take into the ring that same mentality he took to the Olympics and to his return fight with Danny Williams: a sense of focused desperation based on the knowledge that he has to succeed at all costs.

Haye, however, is significantly quicker than Harrison, hits considerably harder and faster, has far sharper reflexes, and is nine years younger. Perhaps most significantly, he has in his arsenal the capacity for bursts of devastating aggression that could quickly discourage the bigger man, or worse. So the prediction is a Haye knockout victory, but it's not quite the sure thing the bookmakers are implying.

And after that? Well, it would be good to say the public will only accept a Klitschko fight, but, sadly, we know that's not quite true. And there are several other options for Haye. He has a return fight contract with Valuev and a mandatory against Ruslan Chagaev coming up. He could make good money on both the European and US circuits by fighting Adamek. In other words, the wait for Klitschko-Haye could take rather longer than we hope.

But there is one other possibility: that Audley Harrison defies the odds, just as he did 10 years ago in Sydney, finding one more massive left to pull off the big one and then signs his life away to face one of the Ukrainian brothers. True, it's a highly unlikely option, but with Audley "A-Force" Harrison, you just never know. ■

Gavin Evans is a British freelance writer and a regular contributor to THE RING.

CAGED HUMILIATION!

Toney and UFC President Dana White both seem amused when Toney weighed in at a flabby 237 pounds (left). It was, however, no laughing matter when Couture quickly took Toney to the ground (opposite page) and won the bout at the 3:19 mark of the first round.

PHOTOS BY EMILY HARNEY

Toney's Tap Out And The Secret Of UFC's Success

By Don Stradley

Sometime after the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, a disenfranchised generation of young American males began searching for a new kind of masculine role model. They looked at the superstars of boxing but didn't like what they saw. They looked elsewhere, until finally they found what they were looking for in mixed martial arts, or more specifically, The Ultimate Fighting Championship.

It's fitting that UFC seemed to rise out of the ruins of 9/11, for boxing's own first Golden Age happened after the horrors of the First World War. In both cases, it was as if the insanity of world events begged for a controlled version of violence that could be sold as entertainment.

It's also fitting that Norman Mailer died during this recent era, for the man who suggested the heavyweight champion of boxing was emblematically the toughest man in the world might have grown ill if he saw former heavyweight contender James Toney lose so easily to UFC favorite Randy Couture. While the bout, which took place in Boston as part of UFC 118, was nothing more than the "freak show" UFC president Dana White deemed it to be, it was still unsettling to see a previous era's concept of rugged manhood stranded on his back like a beached sea cow, while Couture choked him until his eyes bulged.

It might've been depressing if it hadn't looked so ridiculous.

There was a time when athletes from other sports tried boxing. Bob Arum likes telling a story about football's Jim Brown wanting to try Muhammad Ali. Out of curiosity, Arum arranged for the two to spar in a secluded area. Ali slapped Brown three times quickly before Arum called the business off. Football's Lyle Alzado once boxed an eight-round charity exhibition with a faded and flabby Ali. Nothing much happened, but Alzado said later that getting hit with Ali's jab was like being lashed across the face with a rope.

Now, since boxing has lost much of its cachet, the arena for athletes wanting to show their toughness is MMA. Even washed up boxers have gravitated to it the way washed up actresses gravitate to porn. "Butterbean" Esch has had mixed success in various MMA leagues, and, in 2009, former UFC champion Tim Sylvia vanished on the wings of a single punch thrown by veteran boxer Ray Mercer. Most MMA followers dismissed Mercer's win as a fluke, but we'll bet Mercer inspired Toney to try his luck in the cage.

Despite Toney's boasting that he was going "to let everybody know what boxers can do," he wasn't in Boston last August to represent boxing. Toney, his career flagging like Esch and Mercer's, approached UFC to make a little money. When Toney hit the scales at an unflattering 237, it was clear that his game plan wouldn't involve speed. Couture, a fit but weathered 47-year old whose resume included four National Championships in Greco Roman wrestling, needed just a bit over three minutes to dump Toney on his back and make him submit.

After the debacle, Couture encouraged the Boston fans to give Toney some applause. They did so half-heartedly, as if Toney's fat presence was an insult to the sport they loved. During the travesty they'd chanted "UFC! UFC!" as if Boston's TD Garden was their home arena and Toney was the visiting team. Dana White concluded that drafting boxers into his little empire was a bad idea.

"It's unfair to bring a guy in with one discipline, no matter if he's trained for eight or nine months," White said after the bout. White, a boxing fan, added, "I wasn't the guy going out there and trying to badmouth boxing and take boxing down and hurt the sport of boxing. James Toney picked a fight, and he got one." But White gave Toney kudos. "You know what? He stepped up. He wanted to do it, and he did it. He hung in there longer than I thought he would."

It would be interesting to see someone like UFC heavyweight champion Brock Lesnar put on the big gloves and face Wladimir Klitschko, but UFC fighters know they'd fail under boxing rules. Even Couture acknowledged that if he met Toney in a boxing ring, "James would probably knock me out in the first round." If only boxers understood this.

Boosters of MMA conveniently forgot Mercer's stoppage of Sylvia and crowed that Toney's loss was evidence of where boxing stands nowadays. Of course, some people enjoy both boxing and MMA, but, for the most part, there's a line-in-the-sand mentality that exists between advocates of either sport. The rivalry has become tiresome.

For one thing, if this were another era, you might be reading about MMA in the very pages of THE RING. The magazine's founder, Nat Fleischer, often

Toney underwent some grueling workouts at M-1 Training Center in Chatsworth, California, in preparation for the Couture fight. But no amount of training would have turned Toney from a boxer into a MMA fighter capable of beating Couture.

PHOTO BY CRAIG BENNETT/FIGHTWIRE IMAGES

As soon as Couture took Toney off his feet (above), the fight was virtually over. Moments later, Couture put Toney in a strangle hold (below) and the boxer quickly tapped out, ending the match.

showed interest in combat sports other than boxing. Until readers complained, Fleischer filled THE RING with plenty of wrestling coverage. After visiting Thailand, Fleischer wrote a lengthy appreciation of Muay Thai (kick-boxing), and, in 1971, THE RING presented a feature on American karate legend Joe Lewis. So who is to say that at some point in THE RING's past we wouldn't have backed MMA?

Besides, MMA is more like boxing than many will admit. While some fans delight in the submission holds that can end a match, the loudest cheers of the evening usually come when the fighters stand and trade blows. The UFC style of punching is sloppy, but because the combatants wear small gloves and leave their chins exposed, there are occasional knockouts in the cage that even a hardcore boxing junkie would appreciate.

MMA also resembles boxing in the way it has fought for legitimacy, earning recognition state by state, just as boxing did more than a century ago. Even the shaved heads and cauliflower ears of

PHOTOS BY EMILY HARNEY

the typical MMA fighter harkens back to the days of bare-knuckle pugilists.

UFC's healthy squad of white fighters also mirrors a time in boxing's past. Granted, UFC is made up of fighters from varying backgrounds, but the group's roster is undeniably stacked with white American fighters. And there is a correspondingly large white audience. UFC supporters don't like to hear this—they'll usually shrug and say something along the lines of "I just like to see people beat each other up," or as MMA icon Robert Miletech told *Sports Illustrated* in 2007. "Two guys are stripped down. One wins. One loses. Where else do you get that anymore?" Still, only the naïve would deny that UFC's success is partly due to the group's whiteness. People enjoy watching their own kind excel, and UFC has plenty of white athletes to tap into white wallets.

The fact that UFC's stars don't earn windfalls of cash adds to their appeal; UFC's fighting men seem like working class warriors in comparison to the millionaires who populate boxing's elite level. The paradox is that many UFC fighters have college backgrounds, while the average boxer is still no more educated than Rocky Graziano. Perception is everything, though, and the impression is that Dana White gives UFC fans exactly what they want, and the UFC fighters are ready to throw down at a moment's notice.

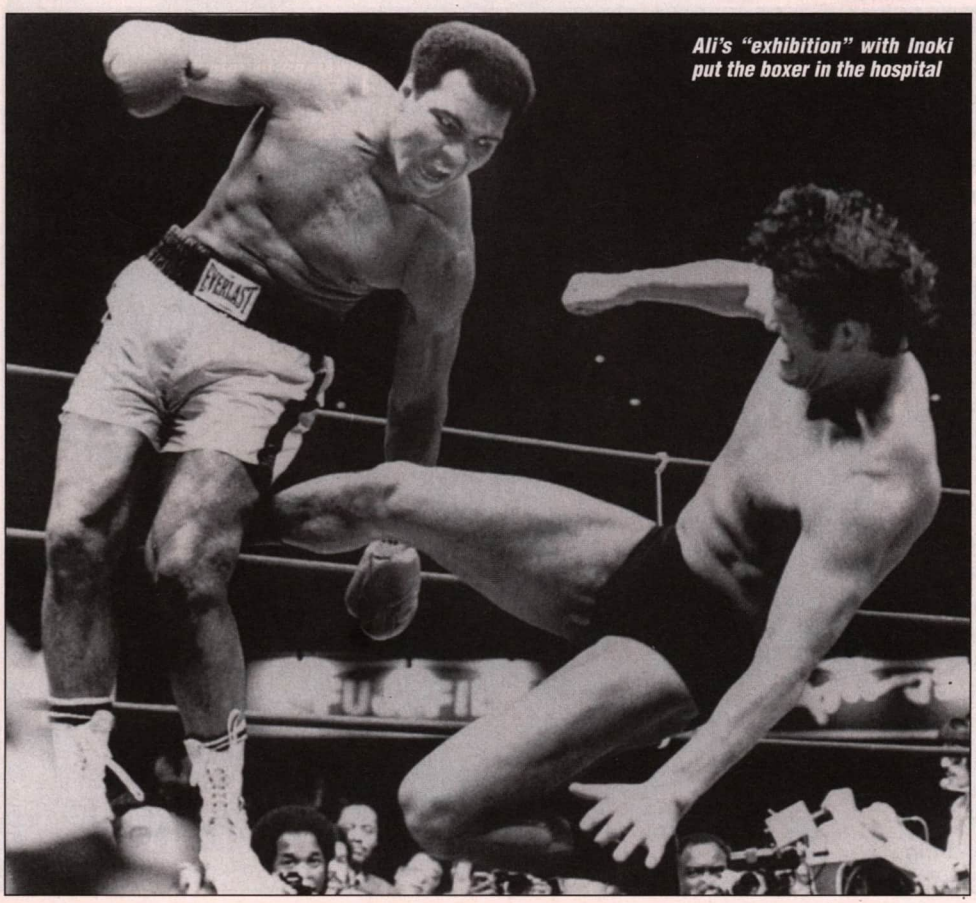
Meanwhile, boxing's elite are viewed as spoiled rich brats, aided by boxing promoters who seem like doddering patriarchs, content to give us one or two big fights per year. Again, the impression is that boxing is trapped in a spider's web of its own making, while UFC feels like a runaway freight car. It's no wonder a lot of fans are drawn to the octagon. The minute they heard WBC, WBA, WBO, IBF, NABO, WBF, interim, super, junior, etc., they ran screaming towards something that made a little more sense.

Where MMA and boxing differ most is that boxing sometimes fails to deliver entirely, while even the worst UFC events offer at least a few moments of sheer, mind-blowing violence. The irony here is almost unbearable. Boxing, derided for decades as being too cruel and, according to some reports, still averaging

Historical Curiosity Factor

Historically, boxers have often struggled against wrestlers or martial artists. In fact, the very first UFC pay-per-view event, in 1993, saw boxer Art Jimmerson submit in two minutes to Brazilian jiu-jitsu legend Royce Gracie. Even Muhammad Ali's farcical 1976 bout with Japan's Antonio Inoki, which ended in a dull draw, saw Ali spend time in the hospital with blood clots in his legs after taking a few of Inoki's kicks.

Jack Dempsey, Joe Louis, Joe Walcott, Joey Maxim, and Archie Moore each entered the burlesque world of professional wrestling, but those ventures can't be taken seriously. Kingfish Levinsky, though, the clownish heavyweight of the 1930s, met grappler Ray Steele in a 1935 bout in St. Louis that may or may not have been legit.



Ali's "exhibition" with Inoki put the boxer in the hospital

Levinsky had promised to knock Steele into the cheap seats, and, at the opening bell, he rushed out and wobbled Steele with a right cross. Steele recovered, tackled Levinsky at the knees, and pinned him. The action totaled 35 seconds. The fans jeered, Levinsky claimed he was robbed, and all was forgotten.

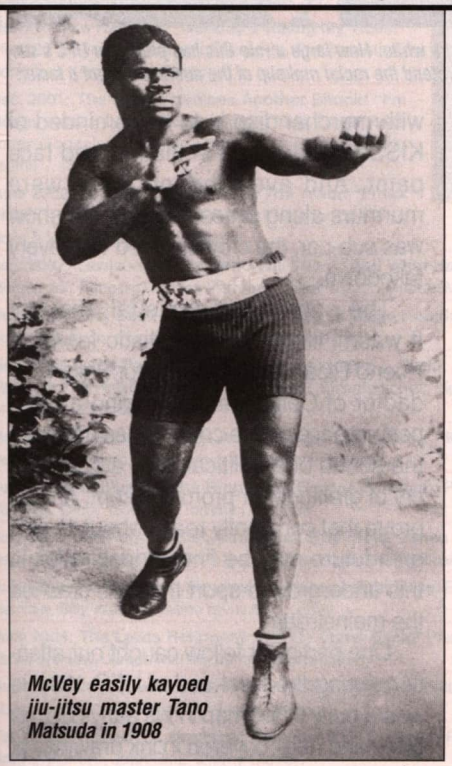
Earlier boxers did pretty well in mixed bouts. On December 31, 1908, in Paris, heavyweight Sam McVey easily kayoed jiu-jitsu master Tano Matsuda. According to a report in *The Lima* (Ohio) *News*, McVey simply feinted with his left and caught Matsuda's chin with a giant right uppercut. "Matsuda went straight up in the air and crashed on the canvas … some hours after the jiu-jitsu fighter was carried from the ring, he admitted there was

six ring deaths per year worldwide, is simply not vicious enough for some people. In a way, the success of MMA was inevitable, its audience having been conditioned during the 1990s by violent video games, martial arts movies, and the highflying mayhem of professional wrestling.

"The kids wanted to graduate to something real," said boxing historian Bert Sugar. "This [MMA] is like a video game come to life."

And like video games, the specter of annihilation is ever present.

There have been no fatalities in UFC, and several medical experts, including longtime RING contributor Dr. Margaret Goodman, have said on record that MMA is actually safer than boxing. However, there have been two documented MMA deaths since 2007, and MMA is heavy on what we'll call "the death tease," where every choke-out victory is like watching a man lean into the abyss only to be pulled back at the last second. Occasionally an MMA fighter refuses to tap out and simply loses consciousness, leading to a few eerie moments as the customers wait for him to regain his senses. Of course, the same could be said about the knockout in boxing, but a boxer knocked unconscious is rare, while MMA fans watch men strangled into near oblivion and revived almost regularly. What it amounts to is a kind of ongoing death and rebirth ritual. Resurrections, even metaphoric ones, have always been big business.



McVey easily kayoed jiu-jitsu master Tano Matsuda in 1908

something in fighting with fists, after all." Another jiu-jitsu star, Kenji Shimakado, was kayoed by the first punch thrown by bantamweight Packy O'Gatty in a 1928 Yokohama bout.

During the 1890s, renowned German wrestling champion Ernest Roeber was a member of Bob Fitzsimmon's entourage. Fitzsimmons enjoyed grappling with Roeber, and the two occasionally got into some serious mat sessions. Fitz' handlers didn't want to risk an injury, so they eventually kyboshed the wrestling workouts. Roeber, who was quite versatile, stayed on as a sparring partner.

Roeber began needling Fitzsimmons, until a public sparring session saw Fitz knock Roeber cold with a single shot to the head. Another meeting allegedly saw Fitz fracture Roeber's cheekbone, only to find himself thrown to the mat and caught in an arm lock that made him howl. Boxing chroniclers tend to focus on the first meeting, while wrestling supporters mention the latter. But the joke is on both sides, for chances are the Fitzsimmons-Roeber sessions were merely publicity stunts.

The two were pals and were often seen at each other's bouts, offering ringside support. Fitz refereed a few of Roeber's matches and even found himself involved in a ringside melee involving Roeber and a character known as The Terrible Turk. Even in those days, wrestling was leaning towards show biz, and Roeber and Fitz weren't above conning the public. Whatever bull Fitz and Roeber were slinging worked, for more than a century has passed and the customers are still curious about mixed bouts.

—D.S.

Boxing may not be able to match the show-stopping effect of cutting off an opponent's oxygen or, for that matter, sitting on a guy's chest and punching his face in, but boxing can definitely learn a few things from UFC as far as marketing. As White told *SI*, "I don't care if you're a f___ing sheepherder in the middle of nowhere. You better have heard of the UFC!"

The weekend of UFC 118, Boston hosted an impressive UFC Fan Expo where fans could mingle with their favorite stars. Boston's Back Bay area was teeming with obvious UFC fans hauling shopping bags bursting with UFC toys, games, clothes, and other products. UFC fans get to bring a little of the UFC home with them. Granted, boxing fans are probably not interested in toys, but they might enjoy mixing with the fighters. And they'd probably like to be shown some appreciation.

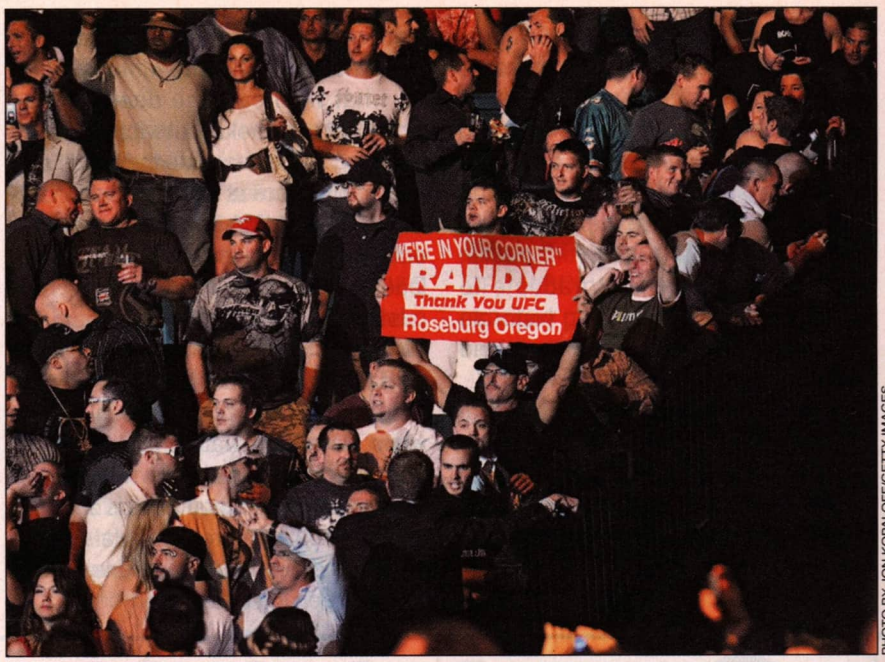


PHOTO BY JON KOPALOFF/GETTY IMAGES

There is no denying that most UFC fighters and fans are white. How large a role this has played in UFC's success is a matter of debate, but it would be foolish to pretend the racial makeup of the audience is not a factor.

Unlike most boxing venues that remain empty until the main event, Boston's TD Garden was packed hours before UFC 118's first bout. Part of this was because UFC 118 was Massachusetts' first UFC event, but also because the ceaseless marketing strategy of UFC has created an enviable bond between the group and its fandom. In this regard, UFC fans are not far removed from fans of WWE or Star Wars or heavy metal bands. To see a mass of UFC devotees dripping with merchandise is to be reminded of KISS fans dressed in leather and face paint. And even though there were murmurs along press row that the show was sub-par, the crowd roared with every takedown.

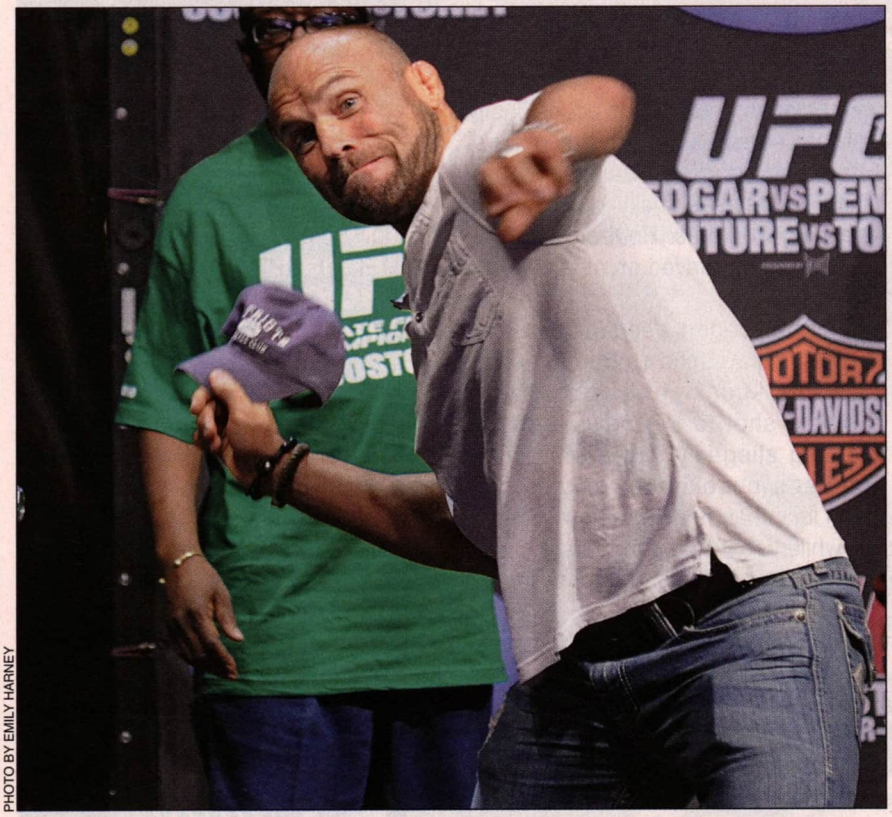


PHOTO BY EMILY HARNEY

Couture throws his cap into the crowd of fans that attended the weigh-in for the Toney fight. When it comes to being fan-friendly, the UFC is miles ahead of professional boxing.

The sound was unusual, though. It wasn't like the nationalistic fervor of Puerto Rican fans cheering for Felix Trinidad or of Celtics fans cheering a great performance on the court. It was more like the sound of a political rally, a collective cry of gratitude for promises kept. An age group that constantly reads about its own grim future may be finding inspiration in this underground sport that has crashed the mainstream.

One particular fellow caught our attention during the weekend of UFC 118. He was a burly white man in his early-30s, his arms and neck covered in ink drawings of devils and crows. He came charging into a food court next to the convention center to meet his buddies, his voice shaking with emotion. Under the bill of his Tapout cap, his eyes were moist.

"I just bumped fists with Chuck Liddell," he said.

He was a kid again, and his heroes walked the earth. ■

Don Stradley is a freelance writer from Massachusetts and a regular contributor to The Ring.

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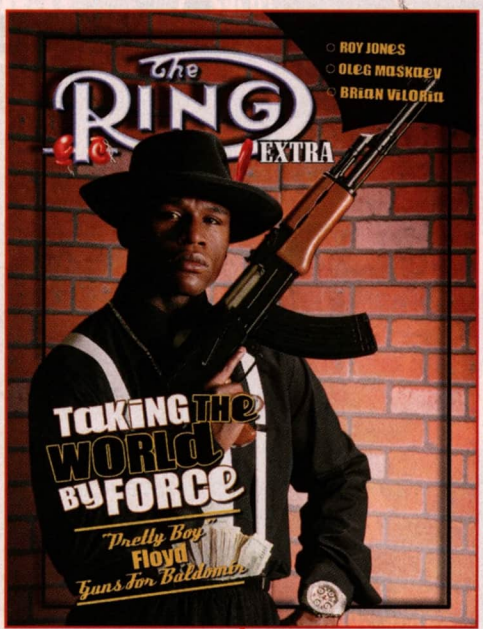

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Tomasz Adamek

"I Know I'm Ready For The Klitschkos"

Tomasz Adamek arrived on the American fight scene when he engaged in a bloody, life-and-death struggle against Paul Briggs in May 2005, winning the vacant WBC light heavyweight belt in a Fight of the Year candidate. Since then, the Polish import, who resides in Jersey City, New Jersey, has been a staple of consistency, an earnest competitor who fans can count on to provide an honest effort every time he fights.

Adamek, 34, has steadily risen from a European curiosity with a glossy record to someone many fans are counting on to spark some life into a dormant heavyweight division ruled by the iron fists of the Klitschko brothers, THE RING world heavyweight champion Wladimir and WBC titlist Vitali.

Adamek, 42-1 (27), has been gradually working toward his ultimate goal of fighting one of the Klitschkos. His first introduction to the heavyweight division was a raging success in Poland, where he dismantled fellow Pole Andrew Golota in five rounds in September 2009. In his next heavyweight outing, Adamek won a decision over Jason Estrada in February 2010 and followed with what's been his signature victory at heavyweight, a majority decision over heavy-handed Chris Arreola in April '10.

Adamek took another step toward a Klitschko showdown by battling 6'7" Michael Grant in August. The size difference was supposed to give Adamek some semblance of what it would be like fighting one of the towering Klitschkos. Adamek beat Grant via unanimous 12-round decision but showed that he still has a lot of progress to make before challenging for the heavyweight title.

That's why Adamek, undersized by today's heavyweight standards at 6'1½" and 217 pounds, feels he needs more experience fighting larger opponents and is thinking about yet another fight to close out 2010 against Vinny Maddalone.

One thing is certain, however, and that's Adamek's ability to fill the Prudential Center in Newark, New Jersey, with the Polish faithful that paint the arena red and white each time he fights. Adamek is proud of his Polish heritage, but, ironically, he finds himself the biggest heavyweight draw in the United States today.

THE RING Managing Editor Joseph Santoliquito interviewed Adamek both before and after the Grant fight, with the help of interpreters Maciej Curlej and Peter Garczarczyk.

Santoliquito reports: "Tomasz showed a different side of himself, other than the dour, focused Adamek we're used to seeing just prior to a fight. He has a great sense of humor, and he really seems to have bonded exceptionally well with his new trainer, Roger Bloodworth, who's also serving a dual role as Adamek's English tutor. The thing that was most refreshing about Tomasz is that he's a star in the sport who doesn't like being treated like a star. He wants to be viewed as a regular guy you can sit down and talk boxing with over a beer."

The Ring: How and when did you get into boxing?

Tomasz Adamek: I started when I was 12. I was interested in fighting and in sports. I wasn't sure what I was going to do at that time in my life. I played a lot of soccer; soccer is very big in Poland and where I lived. I had a heavybag when I was young that I used to punch. However, God guided me to boxing. My father and my uncles went into boxing, so boxing was very well-known in my family growing up. They had me on the guided tour. Of course, I used to street fight when I was younger. You could say that helped in my development too *(laughs)*.

The Ring: Tell us about some of your early experiences.

TA: I fought a lot *(laughs)*. What was happening was there were these two villages: Gilowice, where I'm from, and the other village, Pewel Wielka, which was near us. For fun, we would go to the other village to look for girls *(laughs)*. When we were bored we would do it. We'd go over, and something would happen—a fight. Quite often it was about women. One would go to a village and look for women and always a fight

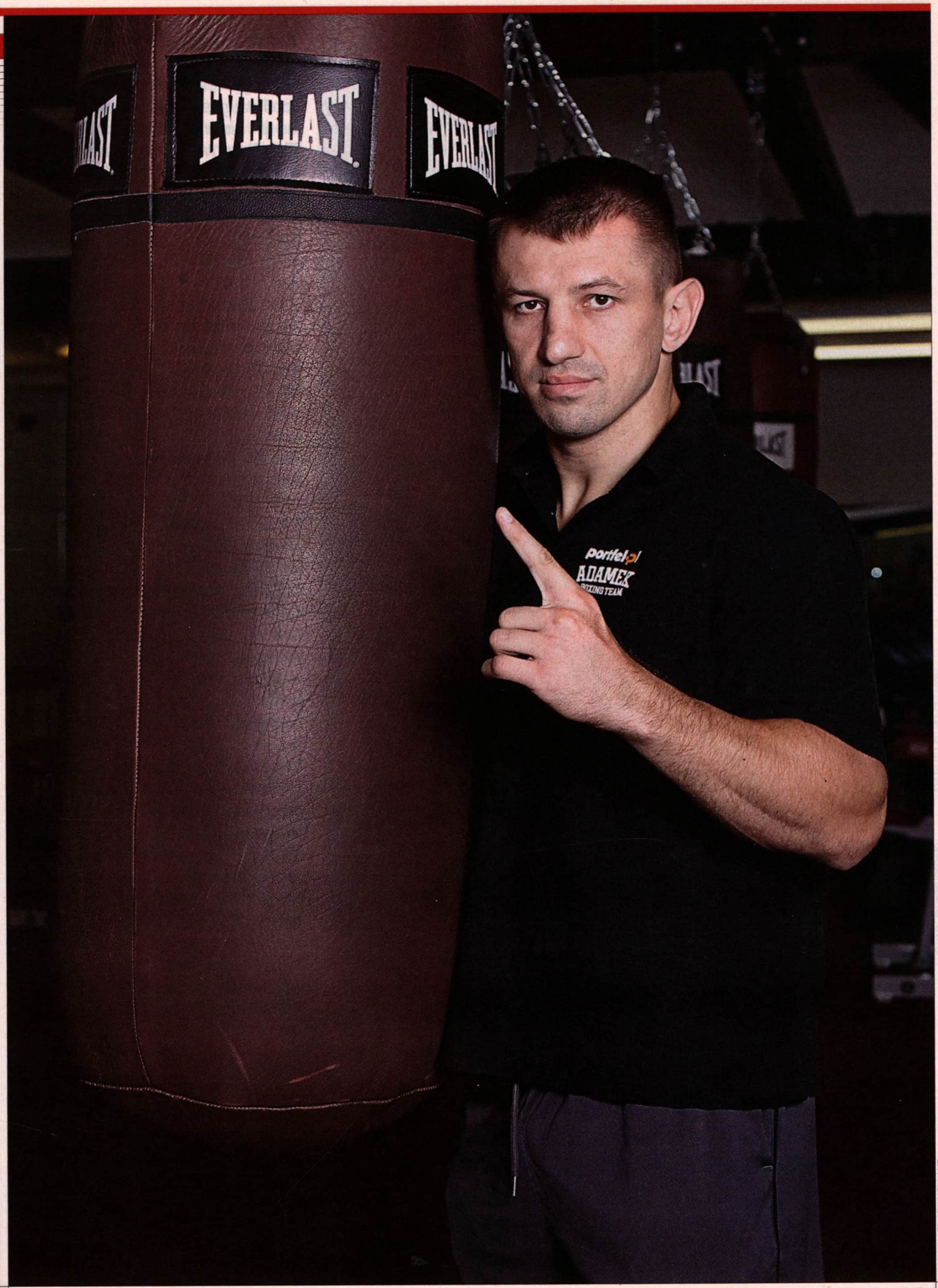
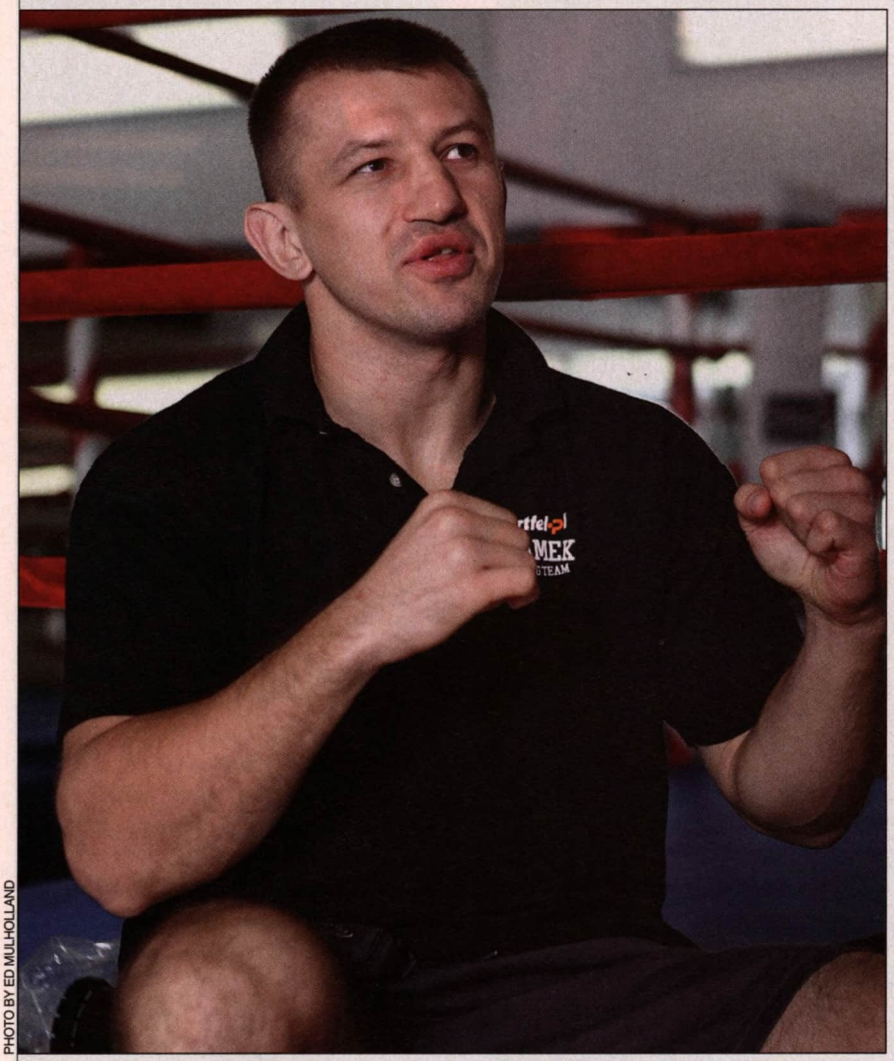


PHOTO BY ED MULHOLLAND

would happen. My father dated women from the other village. They always tried to stop my father, but they couldn't. He used to beat people up to meet women *(laughs)*. They knew my father wasn't there to dance. My father had to beat up all these people to date this woman—who turned out to be my mother *(laughs)*. My uncles did the same thing. I didn't have to do that to meet my wife *(laughs)*. My wife is from a closer village. Besides, they knew I was a fighter, so they didn't pick a fight with me. They would have to get an entire village to fight me *(laughs)*. We'd do it gloves off—just fists. A lot of times they were staged, yes, fixed street fights *(laughs)*.

The Ring: Fixed street fights?



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"When you live in the mountains, it's cold, colder than most people are used to. You have to be tough to deal with the weather all of the time. What happens is when everyone is tough around you, you become tough. The mountain area is not a place for sissies. You have to be a *real man*."

TA: Yes, I know, hard to believe. But we'd arrange something so no one would get really hurt and it would look good *(laughs)*. And I always leave with the girl *(laughs)*.

The Ring: Who were your early boxing influences?

TA: There was Muhammad Ali, George Foreman; there was Mike Tyson, guys like that. Evander Holyfield was an influence—and being from Poland, my friend, Andrew Golota, who was already fighting in the United States when I was coming up. He was doing well, and that's what I wanted to achieve and accomplish.

The Ring: Golota? Why?

TA: Yes, Golota was one of the people I admired. You're looking at me funny, but, yes, Golota, believe it or not *(laughs)*.

The Ring: Were you offended by the bad things Golota said about you leading up to your fight with him?

TA: I was not offended because I never pay attention to what others are saying about me. It makes no difference. It's just done to get some psychological advantage. It's done to make you think and make you be afraid. I don't get afraid. I was never afraid of words. You cannot hurt me this way, no matter who you are.

The Ring: What was life like for you growing up in Poland?

TA: My father died when I was three years old in a car accident. He was a bus driver. I had four sisters, and then there was me. My oldest sister is in her 40s, and I'm number four. My sisters used to beat me up all the time *(laughs)*. I was 12 when I started to work. My grandmother had a big farm, and I used to help her on her farm. I used to take care of farm animals. When mom went to work, she used to work in a small factory sowing gloves. Then, after work, she used to go to another job, making slippers. It wasn't easy when my father died. I don't know too much because I was so young when it happened. Before my father died, he was working on a house, and it wasn't finished. After my father died, my uncles and my family went back and finished the house for us. We moved in, five kids and my mother. She's tough. She's still tough *(laughs)*.

The Ring: What was it about your mother that made her so tough?

TA: You have to understand, my mother had to raise everyone by herself with no help, and she had to be a realist about what she did. There is a famous Polish saying that says you have to have your feet planted to the ground—you have to know what you can do and what you can't do. She was like that. She was always very real about where we were and how much money we had and how we lived. My mother had to support a whole family. I don't know if I could do what my mother did, raising five children by herself. Where I'm from, from the mountains, they produce very tough people, hard-working tough people. That came from my mother. That's what gave me the drive and the edge that I take in the ring with me. My mother is the toughest person that I know *(laughs)*.

The Ring: What was it like living in the mountains?

TA: When you live in the mountains, it's cold, colder than most people are used to. You have to be tough to deal with the weather all of the time. What happens is when everyone is tough around you, you become tough. The mountain area is not a place for sissies. You have to be a *real man*. You have to be mature and be able to deal with things, and everyone around you makes you this way. I say living that way made me tough. I didn't have to go to the woods to go to the bathroom though *(laughs)*, but we did have wolves around where I lived. I didn't wrestle any *(laughs)*. Overall, there wasn't any real danger unless you were a goat *(laughs)*.

The Ring: What did your mother think about you boxing?

TA: My mother was afraid for me. She thought I would get hurt *(laughs)*. She wouldn't allow me to box, so I used to sneak around my mother. She would have definitely shown me what boxing would be about if she caught me *(laughs)*. But I was a mountaineer and a highlander, and she eventually came around and let me fight. But even now, she still calls me to tell me that I have to stop. I tell her this is what I do for a living and I can't stop.

The Ring: How was your family life?

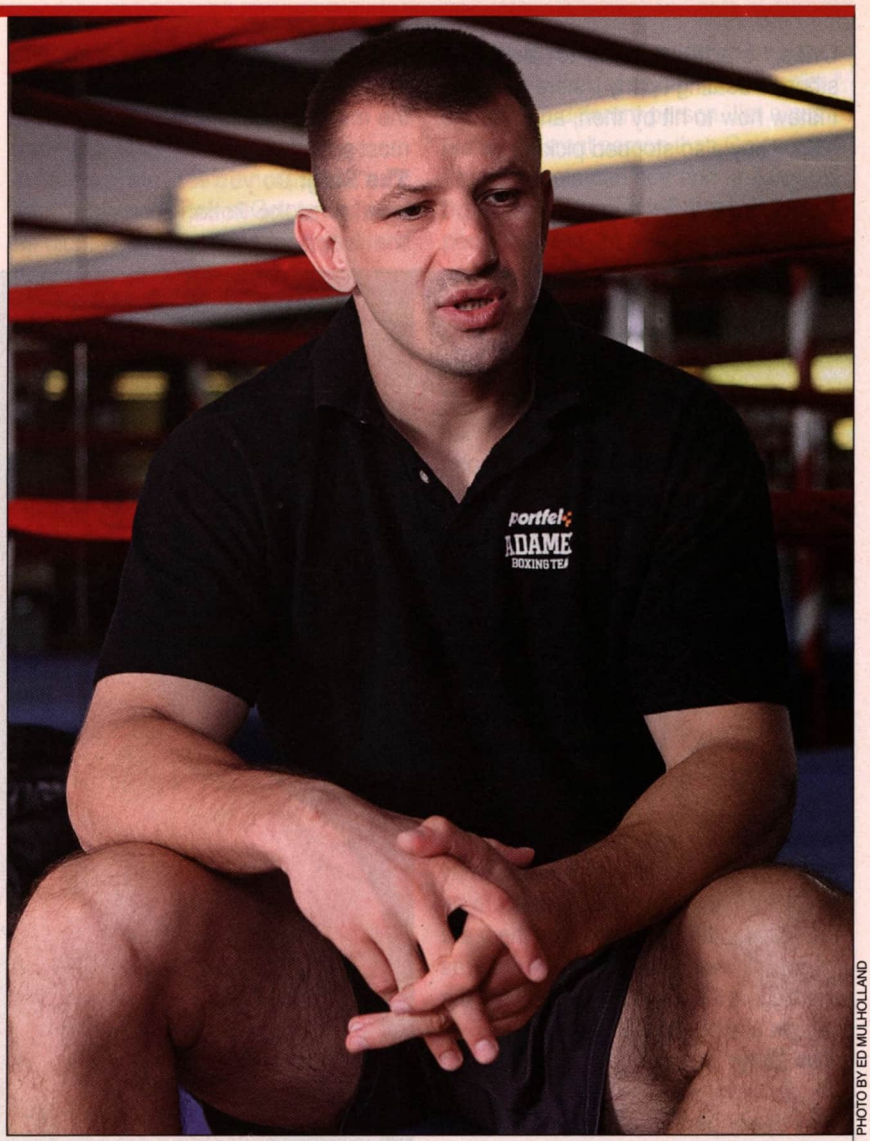


PHOTO BY ED MULHOLLAND

"After the Grant fight, I went for a short vacation to Poland with my wife, Dorota, and my two daughters. There were fans everywhere, every small and big town. I gave countless autographs, posed for hundreds of pictures, but I understand that this is a part of being a public person."

TA: The only boy out of five girls, it wasn't easy *(laughs)*, always bossing me around. All these women around me *(laughs)*. I couldn't get a break *(laughs)*. I was the man of the house *(laughs)*, but all with women who were tougher than me. It was an interesting experience being the only boy. They turned me into a cook *(laughs)*. I know my way around the kitchen. They did that *(laughs)*. We used to fight all of the time with them when I was smaller. They used to beat me up, and, when I started growing up, I used to beat them up.

Once I started training for boxing, I stopped beating up my sisters *(laughs)*. I knew how to hit by then, and I had to stop. They also stopped picking on me *(laughs)*.

The Ring: What concerns did you have coming to America?

TA: Not really any. I knew I was coming for the championship fight against Paul Briggs in 2005, so when I came here, it was an opportunity. That's the way I saw it. I wasn't too concerned too much about Americans then. Also, the idea I had was to improve and get my name out more. The idea was to show that I can make it in the United States. My family followed me in 2008.

The Ring: What surprised you most about America?

TA: For anyone coming from Europe, America is a big country. I mean it's a big, big country to Polish guys *(spreads his hands wide)*. I mean overwhelmingly big—the area and the space. Everything. You can travel from country to country in Europe like people travel from state to state here in America. I think Poland may be the size of Texas. Yes, states are as big as countries in Europe, and there are so many people in America. That was the biggest thing I had to adjust to: all the people and the time it takes to travel.

The Ring: How important is it to you to represent Poland?

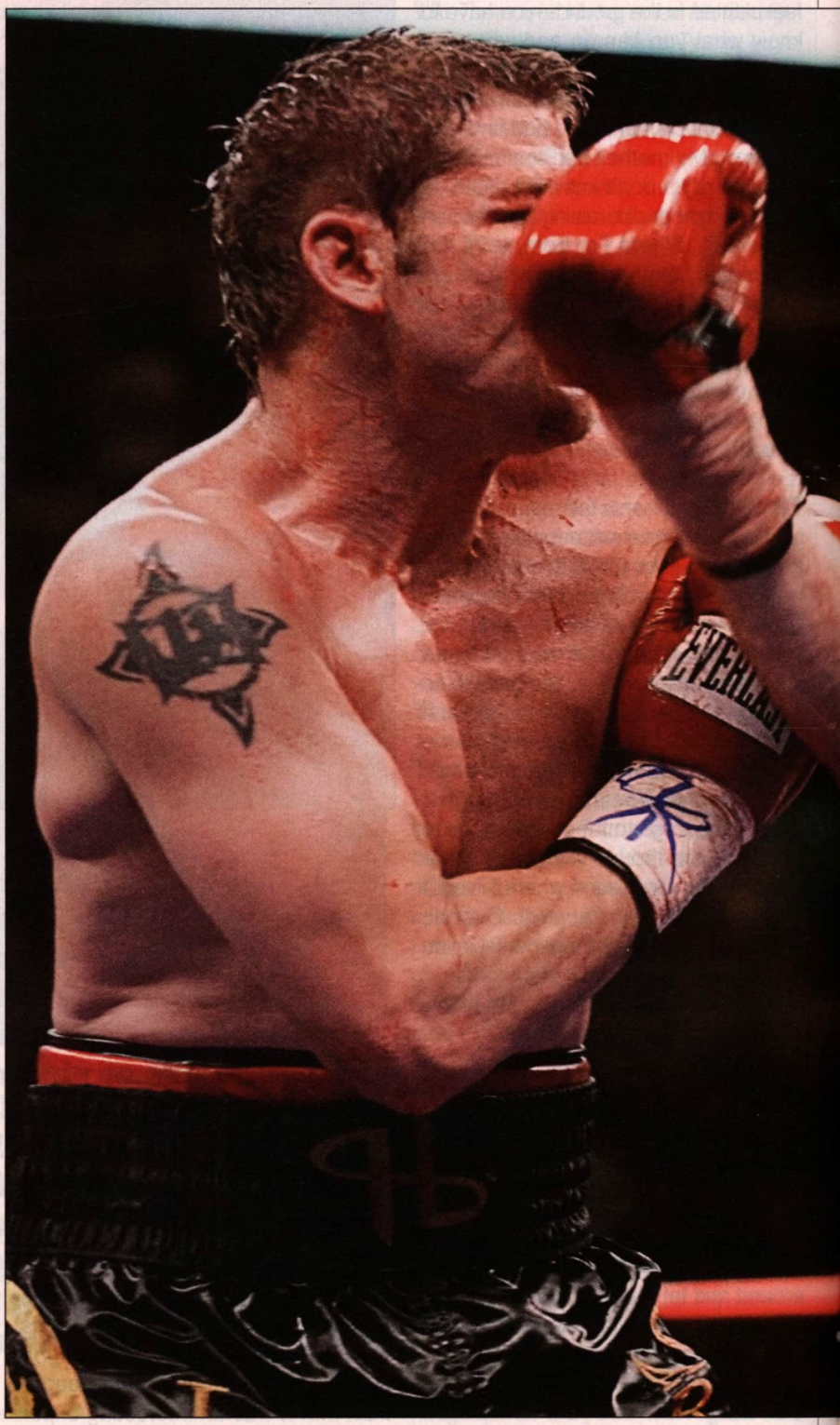
TA: Every person who is born in that country should believe in that country. I firmly believe that. I'm very proud to be from Poland and to represent my country. I live here now, but I will always represent Poland. Don't get me wrong, I love the United States and I'm very happy to be in the United States. It's why I live here, and it's why I moved my family here. But I will always be proud of being from Poland.

The Ring: Do you consider yourself Polish or American?

TA: I'm a permanent resident of the United States. It's funny: I live in Polish area of New Jersey, and, when people look at me and ask, I tell them I'm half-and-half, half-Pole and half-American *(laughs)*. Some Polish people see me living around the Americans, and they look at me as American. My neighbors do; I'm like one of them. My heart *(pats his chest)*, my heart is in Poland because it's where I'm from. But United States, this is the mecca of boxing, where I have the most opportunity.

The Ring: Do you feel a strong connection to the Polish-American fans that support you?

TA: Yes, I do. Very much so. Everyone knows me here, but I'm extremely well-known in Poland. I would say that 40 percent of the fans on my website are solely American. So I would say that I do have a connection with Polish-Americans. You just have to look at my fights



and the Polish-American crowd that shows up. The arenas are white and red. I'm grateful to all my fans. It doesn't matter what or who you are. If you like Tomasz Adamek, I like you *(laughs)*. I know there are a lot of Polish people that live in my community, but I'm trying to capture the 300 million Americans that live here too.

The Ring: As a Polish fighter, did you find yourself battling the stain Andrew Golota left on boxing?

TA: I really don't look at Golota and what he did. I want to achieve for myself and be the heavyweight world champion. I don't really look at anything Golota did. I know I'm a different person. I'm a completely different person than Golota, and I hope people can see and understand that. I have a strong will, but I also know people tend to put everyone in the same

In his US debut, Adamek suffered a badly broken nose but managed to battle through the pain and blood to win a majority decision over Paul Briggs to capture the vacant WBC light heavyweight title.

PHOTO BY WILL HART/HBO

boat, Poles with Poles, Americans with Americans, Germans with Germans. I'm sure there are people that think all Poles are the same. That's not true. I'm definitely different than Golota.

The Ring: What was that like to go back to Poland and fight Golota on a large national stage?

TA: When I went over there, the fans were split half-and-half. A lot of people thought Golota would beat me. That helped me gain a tremendous amount of fans when I beat Golota. I just believed I could do it, that God would help me win. From my experience, I knew some fans would be against me. When I was in Germany, fighting Thomas Ulrich and Josip Jalusic, I experienced that. The only thing I could do was to prove that I could fight. I thought I did that in the [Chris] Arreola fight too. I had everyone against me. I experienced the same thing there as in Germany: people against me. I turned that over and won a lot of those fans in both those fights. That's what I did in Poland when I beat Golota.

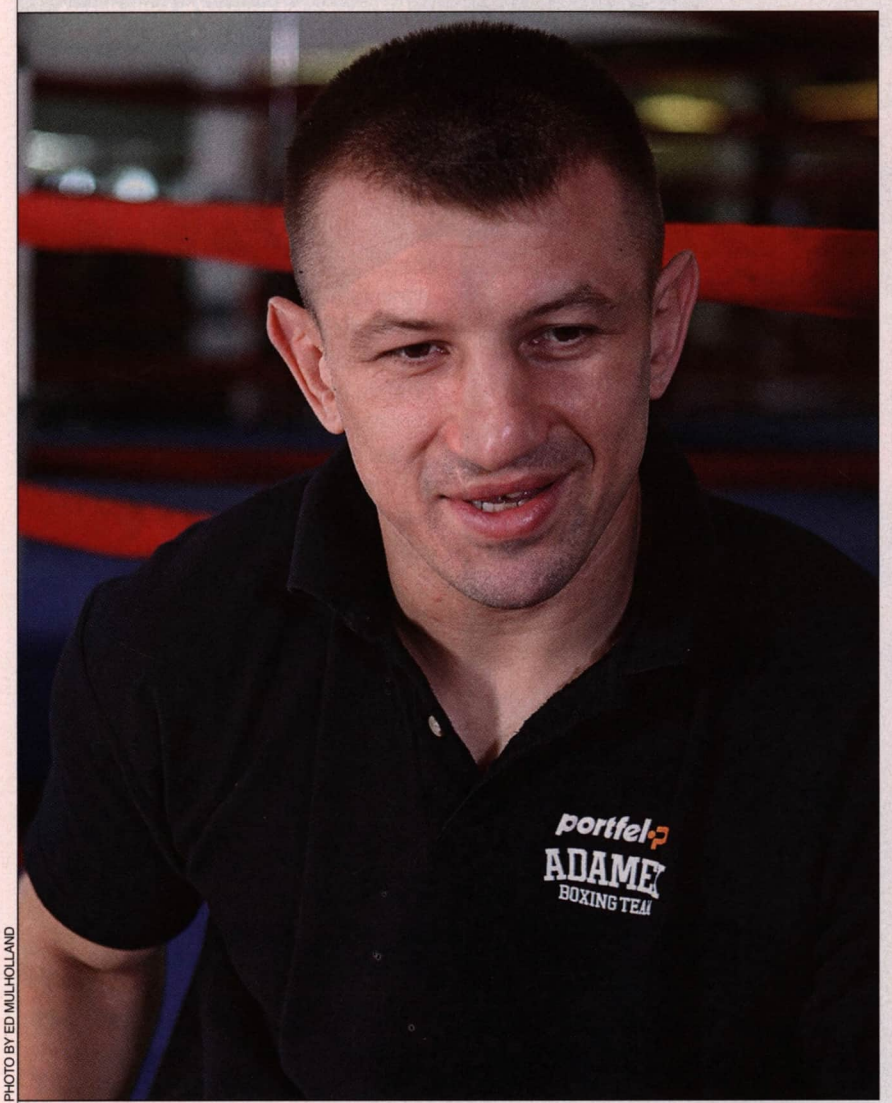


PHOTO BY ED MULHOLLAND

"Some people said Arreola was going to crush me. But no, no, I don't think he was going to eat me."

The Ring: How different is life for you when you go back to Poland now?

TA: It's a very different life than before. After the Grant fight, I went for a short vacation to Poland with my wife, Dorota, and my two daughters. There were fans everywhere, every small and big town. I gave countless autographs, posed for hundreds of pictures, but I understand that this is a part of being a public person. I will never be like a so-called superstar, with separate rooms in a restaurant so I can have dinner with my family and not be connected to others. I'm still a highlander at heart, a very outgoing and very friendly person. There was my Polish fan from Ireland who drove 30 hours with his girlfriend to Warsaw hoping he can meet me. It happened. He was crying when we shook hands. How could that not humble you?

I don't know if the Polish people think I'm the greatest fighter in Polish history or not. That's a question for the media and the fans to answer—not me. It's for them to decide. Polish fans look at me as someone that's good and not crazy *(laughs)*. Here, in the US, I feel I have more freedom to move around and be with my family. There, like I said, they treat me like a superstar. No one is grabbing at me and wanting an autograph here in the United State. Not that I mind that in Poland. I like my fans. It's something that I have to get used to. It's like there are two different worlds.

The Ring: How does it feel not having to make weight anymore?

TA: It is a very big relief mentally, knowing that I can eat whatever I like, whenever I like. Above everything else, though, the mental comfort is tremendous. I don't want to go back to what I had to do before. It was killing me, I mean *killing me*. I couldn't eat or drink water. I suffered from dehydration. I felt weak when I had to drop weight. I just didn't feel right. If you lose 20 pounds very fast, you can die. I kept dieting all year and I still had to lose the weight. I was a light heavyweight from 1999 to 2007. I dieted for seven years, and, every year, I'd get heavier and heavier. It hurt me in the ring. Sometimes, I didn't feel like I had anything when I was about to fight.

The Ring: What's been your most challenging fight?

TA: The Paul Briggs fight, and for a lot of reason. Three weeks before the fight, I broke my nose in sparring. During the fight, I was choking on my own blood before the 12th round came. But my belief and stubbornness as the first Polish fighter to win a world championship kept me going. Yes, that's the fight that made me. That's the first fight that I was presented to the Polish fans and America fans in the United States.

The Ring: That was an unbelievable war. How did you manage to win?

TA: I just believe in God, and I am stubborn. That's what pulled me through. I pray, and that gives me that strength. I was thinking during the Briggs fight of how to avoid the punches that were going for my nose, but I have a really big nose *(laughs)*. It was a tremendously tough fight. Today, I don't think I would go through the same thing. When I came back to Poland and saw a doctor, he was surprised that I was able to fight with the broken nose, as bad as it was, for as long as I did.

The Ring: What did you learn from the Chad Dawson loss?

TA: My one loss—*ahhhh*! The one thing that I learned and the reason why I moved to heavyweight was I couldn't keep the weight down. That really wasn't me in the Dawson fight. I didn't feel right. If I had won that fight, who knows what would have happened. Maybe I stay at light heavyweight and continue to kill myself making weight. Who knows? Maybe there is a good reason why I lost and made the move to cruiserweight. What the Dawson fight did was help me become a cruiserweight world champion, THE RING champion, and it helped me to become a heavyweight. Anything that happens, it happens for a reason. I really believe that. My body kept telling me I wasn't a light heavyweight, and I wasn't listening. After the Dawson fight, I listened *(laughs)*.

The Ring: What fighters today do you enjoy watching?

TA: I like watching all fighters. I like watching Floyd Mayweather. I like watching Manny Pacquiao. I hope they make that fight. It's a fight that will be very challenging for both. I like a lot of fighters today, and I think the fighters today should get more credit than we do.

The Ring: When you fought Chris Arreola, did you have any fear that he might try to eat you?

TA: That's good, that's good *(laughs)*. You caught me off guard with that question *(laughs)*. I wasn't afraid of Arreola eating me *or* punching me. I realized that Arreola wasn't prepared for me. He

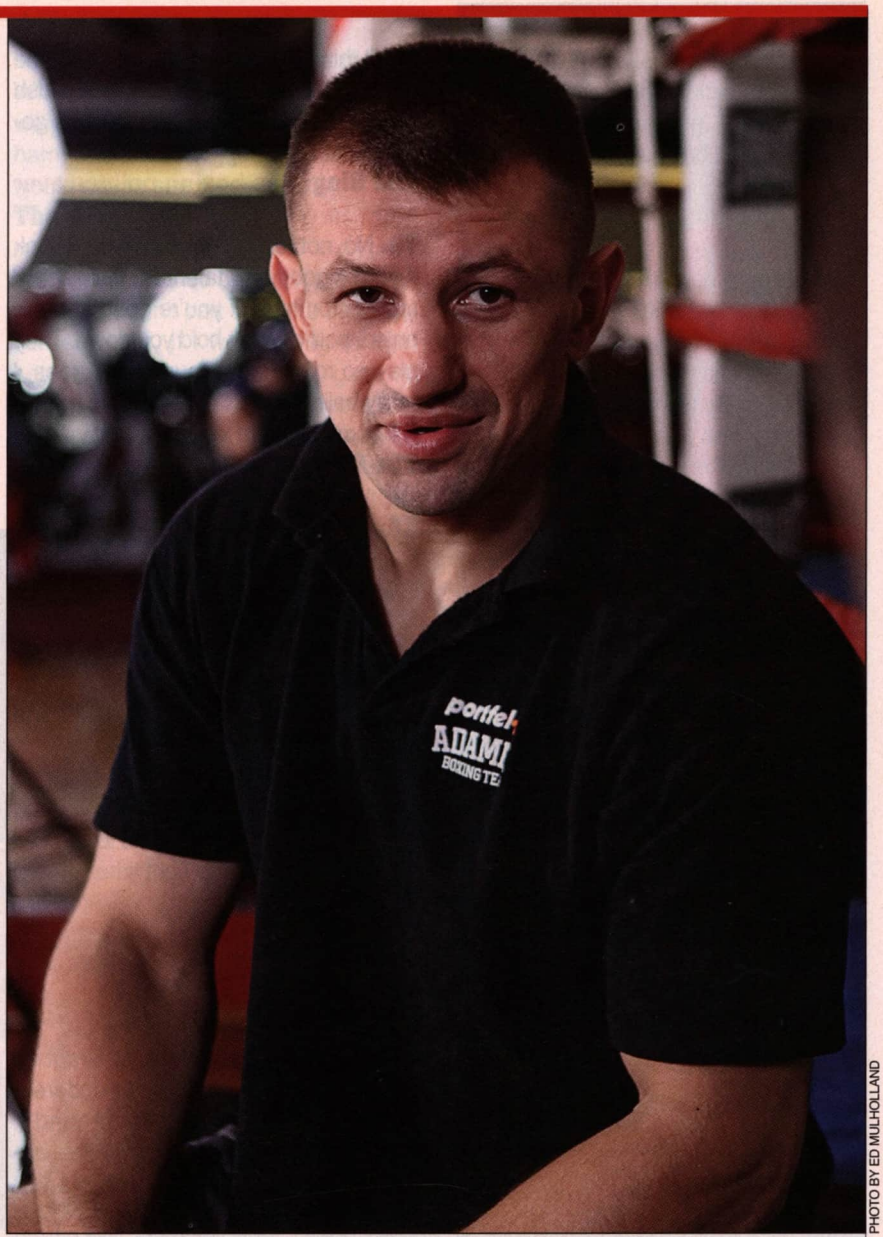


PHOTO BY ED MULHOLLAND

"I have a really close bond with Roger Bloodworth. He's a good person and he's taught me a lot, especially the American fighting style. He's also helped me with my English. I now know all of the good curse words in English."

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didn't think I was a big challenge. Some people said Arreola was going to crush me. But no, no, I don't think he was going to eat me *(laughs)*.

The Ring: Has boxing politics ever affected your progress?

TA: No, not really. I don't think so. I think if you're good and talented, your ability speaks for itself. If you're good and talented, politics can't hold you down. They play no role in how your career goes. I really believe that. If you're good, people will come and see you fight.

The Ring: How much longer do you see yourself boxing?

TA: Only God knows that answer. If I'm really healthy, maybe I can do this a couple of more years. I want to win a belt at heavyweight and then have a couple more fights. Then after that, I might think about retiring. I can't really say how much longer I will fight, but that's the general idea. I want to have all my marbles *(laughs pointing to his head)* when I'm done. I want to be able to read and count to my daughters. I'd like to think I'd be able to retire at the right time.

The Ring: Going into the Michael Grant fight, were you affected at all by the fact that a lot of people thought Grant was a washed-up fighter and didn't deserve to be fighting you?

TA: I definitely didn't look at Grant as someone washed-up. I never underestimate anyone I fight against—and it could even be you stepping into the ring with me *(laughs)*. The fight was a tremendous opportunity for him. I knew that. I prepared for the Grant fight as I would have any other fight. As far as the public is concerned with me and what people say, it doesn't matter. I'm the one who has to get into the ring and fight. It's my job. I know I have to be ready and prepared.

The Ring: Was the match designed to see how you could do against a really tall boxer?

TA: I like to think that every fight is an experience in some way or another. Fighting Grant is close to the Klitschko fight only in that they are all big guys. But fighting big guys gets you ready to fight big guys, so I supposed it didn't hurt.

The Ring: Did you ever see the Lennox Lewis-Michael Grant fight?

TA: I saw that fight many times. I used some of the things I saw against Grant. But Lewis, you have to remember, was a champion and much bigger than me. What I saw Lennox do was not give Grant an opportunity to box. I saw that from the beginning of the fight. You have to believe that you can win, and my style is different than Lennox's style. But Lennox showed me how I had to be active against Grant.

The Ring: Were you pleased with how you fought against Grant?

TA: I was. I was really happy because I thought I connected many times to his face. He was a tough guy to fight, and that was my first experience with someone as tall as Michael Grant. I didn't expect to knock him out. I went into it like I go into every fight. I was prepared to fight 12 fights—like I always do. If you're not prepared to fight 12 rounds hard, you might as well not go into the ring. My trainer, Roger Bloodworth, told me I had to connect with him for 12 rounds. I think I did that. I think I stayed in his face. My goal wasn't to knock him out. You have to understand, knockouts come when they come. They don't always come when you want them to come. I wanted to beat Grant, and that's what I did.

The Ring: You say you were happy with the Grant fight, but afterward you didn't look very pleased. Why?

TA: Grant kept holding my head down with his hand. I thought the referee would do something about it, but he didn't. That made me angry. I was cut, and Grant was holding my head, so I wasn't too happy after the fight. I wasn't ready for that. I'll have to get used to fighting against a taller guy.

The Ring: You seemed in a little trouble in the 12th round against Grant. What happened?

TA: I wasn't hurt. I don't think I was in trouble at all, in my opinion, and he never hurt me either. I was more tired after the Arreola fight because there were a lot more exchanges. Not like against Grant. I'll admit that I was not fighting with the normal energy I have in the later rounds. But that's natural. You can't fight hard for all 12 rounds.

The Ring: Did Grant do anything that was unexpected?

TA: Grant didn't surprise me with anything. He did what we expected him to do in preparing for this fight. We expected Grant to try to use his size, and he did a little. We knew it would be a tough fight because Grant was a desperate man in a do-or-die fight. He knew if he beat me, he would rise and I would fall.

The Ring: Was the move to heavyweight motivated by financial gain or were you having difficulty making the cruiserweight limit?

TA: I didn't have opponents for TV, no one at cruiserweight. I had to make money. Yes, you can say I went up to heavywweight because of the money. Who was there to beat at cruiserweight? Who? I beat Steve Cunningham, and it was a good fight. But who would pay to see it again?

The Ring: Was it part of your long-range plan to fight at heavyweight?

TA: I never planned on fighting at heavyweight. It wasn't part of where I saw my career going. If I were going to fight heavyweight, I would naturally gain the weight so I could feel comfortable and strong at heavyweight. I know what people keep saying. I'm not big enough for heavyweight. But Mike Tyson wasn't tall, and I think I'm taller than he was. You have to be quick and think about what you're doing in the ring. Size doesn't matter. If you're quick and think, you can win against anyone.

The Ring: How difficult has it been to learn English?

TA: I'm learning English every day. I learn with Roger Bloodworth *(laughs)*. He's increasing my vocabulary. If you're around people who only speak English, you're forced to learn English quicker. I lived here for two years, and I feel okay answering questions in English. My English every day is getting better and

Adamek took on 6'7" Michael Grant as kind of a dress rehearsal for a future fight with either Wladimir or Vitali Klitschko. Although he hammered out a 12-round unanimous decision victory over Grant, Adamek admitted that fighting a much taller man presented problems he had not encountered before.

PHOTO BY ED MULHOLLAND

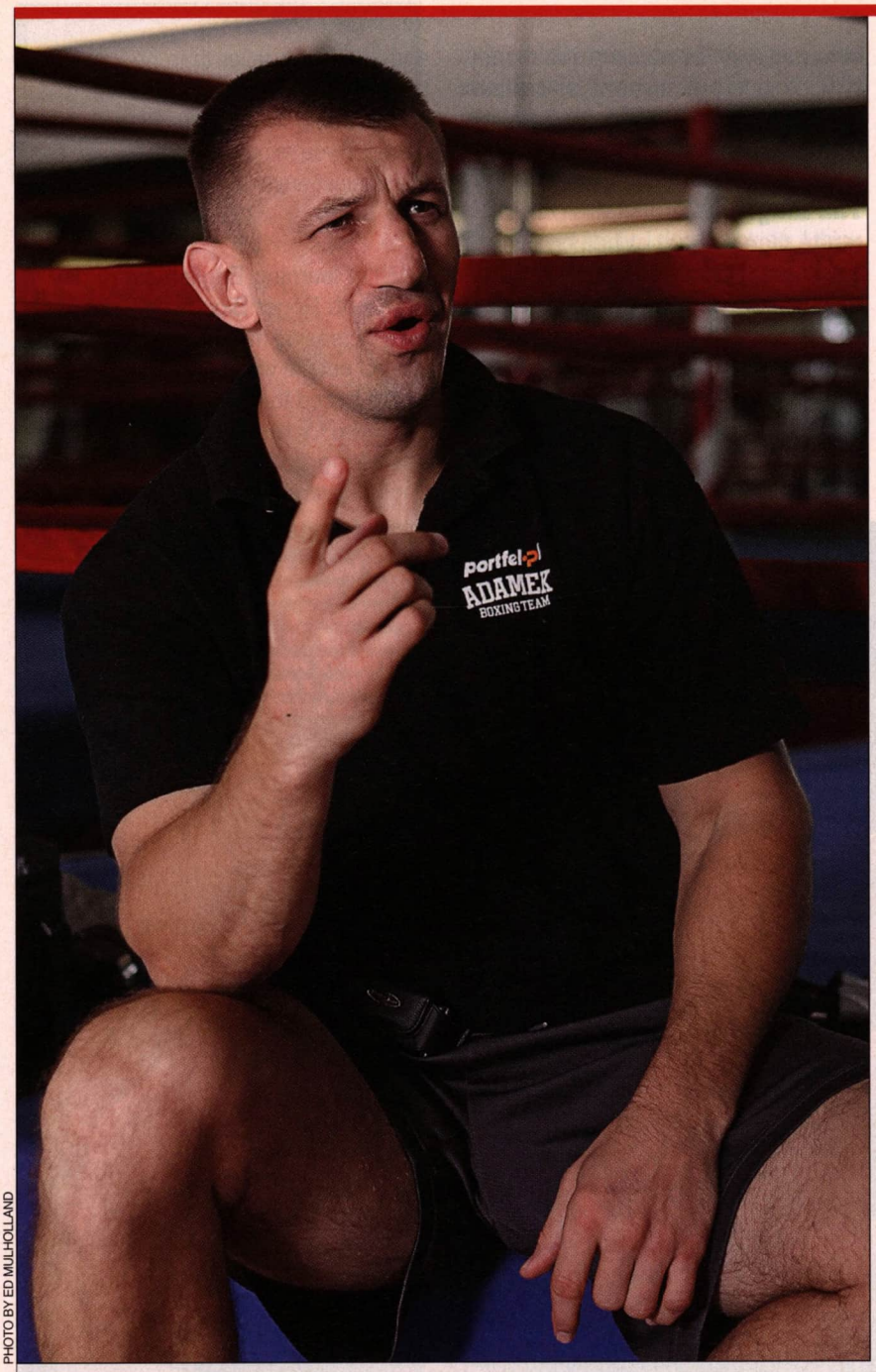

PHOTO BY ED MULHOLLAND

"The Catholic religion was a big part of my family upbringing, part of my life from the beginning. I never miss mass on Sunday. I talk to various priest friends in the time leading to a fight or even when nothing is going on. I just need this. I need spiritual advice."

better. My English will be getting better with the next fights to come. It all depends on how much Roger teaches me *(laughs)*.

The Ring: A fighter's personality has a lot to do with his success with the fans. Do you think it would benefit you to let the fun side of your personality come out?

TA: I'm really more fun to be around than people may think. I am funny. I like to laugh. That's me. But when fans see me, what I show is to be professional, and that's the biggest challenge for me. I'm naturally more relaxed. I don't know the perception of my fans, but the people that are around me know I'm a funny guy to be around. Right before a fight, I concentrate on the fight. I have no time to play around. After a fight, I can relax and enjoy life. My wife controls me, so I can't go too crazy *(laughs)*, and I'm a father, so I have to keep that in mind. But fans see me around fight time, and I'm not exactly in a smiling mood.

The Ring: How is your first trainer, Andrzej Gmiruk, doing?

TA: Andrzej was sick. He has a heart problem. He's still alive. He's just sick. I go way back with him, but his health prevented him from training me full-time. I have a really close bond with Roger Bloodworth. He's a good person, and he's taught me a lot, especially the American fighting style. He's also helped me with my English. I now know all of the good curse words in English *(laughs)*. But mostly, Roger's been good with showing me the American boxing style, which is different in movement and how you move around from the European style. I had to adjust. With the American style, you have to move and be active and watch out for the punches.

The Ring: What did winning THE RING cruiserweight belt mean to you? And do you think you'll have a chance to win it as heavyweight champion?

TA: Winning THE RING belt for the cruiserweight championship showed that I was capable of being the best in the world. It made me think about moving to heavyweight and winning THE RING heavyweight title, which would be very important to me. THE RING belt shows the world that I'm the best fighter there is in

the class. It's why I want THE RING belt for the heavyweight championship.

The Ring: It seems you looked better against Arreola, who was rated in the top 10, than you did against Grant, who was not rated. Why do you think that is?

TA: The size was the difference. I couldn't fight the same way against Arreola as I did against Grant. What I did against Grant was supposed to be the blueprint against the Klitschkos. Facing someone like Grant will get me prepared for someone down the line like the Klitschkos. Arreola was so much smaller than Grant, and that's what made the difference. My tactics against Grant was whatever we did in training camp with Roger. We wanted to keep constant pressure on Grant, and I think I did that. The changes in tempo were important. I tried to keep on changing the distance, confusing Grant where I would be. He couldn't adjust to what I was doing. But the height and reach difference is what probably made the Grant fight look harder than the Arreola fight.

The Ring: Are there any decisions you made early in your career that you regret, and, if so, why?

TA: I made one mistake. That came in 1999 when I signed my first pro contract and started to fight for an English promoter. If I could turn back time, I would have gone straight to the US. That is where the action is. They have the best trainers, the best fights for me, and the best chances to be recognized as a true world champion. I have a chance for a good life. My manager and friend, Zyggi Rozalski, said that if I had arrived six years earlier, in 1999, I would be a very wealthy and already a retired man.

The Ring: Do you think people underestimate how smart you are inside and outside the ring?

TA: They probably do, but you cannot please everybody. I always knew this. Most of the people have appreciation for what I do, how tough it is, how hard you have to work to achieve what I have achieved. You can see this just looking at the arenas where I fight. It's kind of surprising. I have more critics in my native Poland. Some of the people don't like my religious devotion, my views. I'm being criticized, but, like I said before, I'm not here to please everyone. I am who I am.

The Ring: How important is religion in your life?

TA: The Catholic religion was a big part of my family upbringing, part of my life from the beginning. I never miss mass on Sunday. I talk to various priest friends in the time leading to a fight or even when nothing is going on. I just need this. I need spiritual advice or just want to talk to somebody who understands me. My wife is also from a very religious family. We share the same values. There's a pilgrimage to Monastery of Jasna Gora in Czestochowa. You have to walk like 80 miles to pay respect to God in this national shrine of Catholicism. I've walked there five or six times, my wife more than this. There was seven days of walking with my fellow pilgrims, everybody having a great time. Before the Grant fight, there were more than 10 masses said in my intention in Poland and in the US. It was to help me gather my strength. And I won. Religion gives me this strength and mental toughness. It's a very important part of who I am.

The Ring: If you could take your pick, which Klitschko brother would you prefer to fight?

TA: Either one, it doesn't matter to me. I don't look at one any different than the other. I'm ready to fight anyone at any time. So whatever Klitschko wants to fight me, I'll fight him. I have no preference. But the Klitschko brothers are good fighters.

The Ring: Do you think you're ready for the Klitschkos, or do you want to take some more time?

TA: I'm expecting to fight one of the Klitschkos in the beginning of next year, and I'd love to fight one of them in Madison Square Garden in March [on the 40th anniversary of the Muhammad Ali-Joe Frazier fight]. I feel I am ready, because I'm a student of the game. It would be stupid of me to fight the Klitschkos without fighting someone like Michael Grant first and preparing myself. This was the big test against a big fighter. I know what to do know against a big guy like that the next time. I know I'm ready for the Klitschkos. ■

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KAYO ARTIST GIOVANNI SEGURA

From Flipping Burgers To World Champion

By David Mayo

Ciudad Altamirano may fall within the borders of the same Mexican state, Guerrero, as the sands of Acapulco, but don't ask Giovanni Segura about the bikini-clad tourists, ritzy hotels, and restaurants along one of the world's best-known resort beaches. He saw none of it.

Segura's hardscrabble rise to become THE RING's 108-pound world champion possesses the qualities and storyline Hollywood craves. He quit elementary school to help support his family, washing cars, selling food and shoes to make sure he had food and shoes, and hustling his way to make one peso stretch until the next one came along. His parents left him and a brother in Mexico to scratch out a better life in California because they couldn't afford to bring all six children to the United States simultaneously. So for three years the teenaged boys made do on their own.

"We were raised in a tough neighborhood, you know?" Segura said. "By that age, we knew how to cook ourselves, how to work, how to wash our clothes. So my mom said: 'You guys are grown men, you can take care of yourselves. We're going to go over there and try to get the money to bring you over.' And that's what they did. We didn't need our parents' help. We were raised good, with good habits."

His father, Anastacio Segura, was a mechanic who also worked washing cars at the family's home. His mother, Sabina Aguilar, sold staple foods—enchiladas, taquitos, tostadas, and the like—as a street vendor. When the couple moved to the United States, the father worked in construction, as a driver, selling shoes and toys, and in his original job as a mechanic. Mom worked at McDonald's and as a hotel laborer. Even in the land of opportunity, the opportunity was hard-earned.

"My dad was always looking for a better job," Segura said. "We always worked hard, as a family. And when I came to California, I would be working at McDonald's, I would be doing landscaping, and I would be doing construction. I did everything. I worked at a car wash. I'm a Mexican trying to work for a better life."

And when the last two sons came to California, Segura, never having been in a boxing gym in his entire life, saw a television feature about a youngster who won a Golden Gloves tournament. Segura was 19 years old. He was getting paid to play for a soccer team but wanted to try the new sport.

His family wanted nothing to do with it. The young man would grab his soccer shoes and tell his parents he was going to the park, only to veer to the boxing gym instead. He didn't have his first amateur bout until he was 20, and he only had about a dozen in total before the knowledgeable men at the gym knew they had a professional prospect on their hands. And when the proprietor of the Azteca Boxing Club in Bell Gardens, California, told the parents their son had promise, that he shouldn't be working the myriad odd jobs that helped the family stay afloat, and that there would be financial help available if young Giovanni turned pro, the parents balked and told their son they did not want this Richard Mota character coming around.

PHOTO BY SUMIO YAMADA

A jubilant Segura and his team celebrate his knockout of Calderon to win THE RING junior flyweight world championship in Calderon's hometown of Guaynabo, Puerto Rico. It was the vicious-hitting Segura's sixth-consecutive knockout in an overall record of 25-1-1 with 21 knockouts.

"It was a battle between my family and me," Segura said. "It got to the point where I had to be focused on what I wanted. My trainer said, 'If you make it, you'll make it big. And if not, you don't lose anything. You're 20. Try it for two years, and, if you don't make it, just quit.' I told my mom and dad that. I made that promise to my mom. All of a sudden, in two years, I had all these knockouts as a pro. Then I became the state champion, and it was nonstop from there on."

Mota manages fighters from the same gym where his father, Arturo, trains them. Segura's first trainer, Lucilo Nolasco, who still works in the boxer's camp, found that his young charge crammed a couple years' worth of foundation work into a couple months' time. Mota knew quickly that Segura's whirlwind style could win a lot of amateur bouts, but many more in the pros.

"I saw he had something special," Mota said. "What most impressed me was I had never seen somebody so little knock guys out with headgear and those big gloves in the amateurs. He would hit people and either knock them out or wobble them, unbelievable power. When we saw the talent, that's when we told him not to work anymore, that we'd turn him pro and help him out."

Three days before his 21st birthday, Segura launched into the sport that would crown him king. The eventual coronation wasn't easy either, but it wouldn't fit the storyline if it were.

Segura traveled to Guaynabo, Puerto Rico, the hometown of unbeaten Ivan Calderon, for an August 28 fight with THE RING junior flyweight championship at stake. The fans were receptive, acknowledging Segura in a fashion the boxer never would experience in Los Angeles.

On fight night, they all predictably turned on him, except for the handful of Mexicans who came to see Segura score the biggest victory of his life.

Segura used the trip as an opportunity to do more than win a championship. He had forged a relationship with Juan Manuel Lopez, who often trained at Azteca when he visited the Los Angeles area. Lopez called Mota and invited Segura to his gym, where he arranged for Felix Trinidad to meet the rising star.

"It was amazing," Segura said. "Puerto Ricans know about boxing. They would say: 'You've got a big chance, good luck,' and some of them said I was going to win. They kind of knew it was coming, you know? The main sports there are baseball, boxing, and basketball. Everybody knows about boxing, and everybody knew me. The only time I felt pressured was at the fight. Everybody was against me, but I knew that was going to happen."

Midway through the bout, with a slight advantage on the scorecards in a bristling matchup of lefthanders, Segura wondered if he might run out of rounds before his vaunted power could get to the slick Calderon.

"It probably started about the sixth round. He started manipulating the fight, moving around, making me miss," Segura said. "And that's when I said I needed to stop right here and continue our game plan, because the guy's moving a lot and I have to go to the body. I tried different things until I found out what was working. I started getting in and focusing on the body, jabbing the body, and it worked perfectly with the plan because he stopped moving. I started hurting him to the body, and he stopped.

"People criticized him, said he had the wrong plan because he stopped to trade punches. He didn't want to stop. I made him stop because he was hurt."

The 28-year-old Segura, 25-1-1 (21), entered the fight, he said, not caring "if I even won a round—I was just going for the kill." And when the opportunity presented itself, after a barrage of bodyshots that left Calderon discouraged and rarely punching, he seized upon it, using his windmill assault to break down the veteran champion.

Calderon, 34-1-1 (6), finally wilted in a corner, crumpled onto one knee, cut and swollen around both eyes, head bowed submissively, as referee Jose Hiram Rivera counted him out at the 1:34 mark of the eighth round. He then rose and accepted an embrace from his conqueror, who was awestruck by the response.

"There was this big silence. Everybody got quiet. You could even hear the referee counting," Segura said. "I was like 'Oh, my God.' It was so emotional, that moment. In the background, behind Calderon, you could see a serious Trinidad, you could see a worried Juan Manuel Lopez, all the faces, and all the reactions they had. The only people screaming and yelling were the few Mexican fans who went over there. I could hear the media talking. I couldn't believe it was really happening. I couldn't believe he was down. I knew in 10 seconds I was going to be recognized as the best in my division. I was in shock.

PHOTO BY SUMIO YAMADA

Instead of his normal moving, tactical battle, Calderon stood and traded far more than usual. But as Segura pointed out, the Puerto Rican had to fight more because he was forced to by Segura's pressure and debilitating bodypunches.

PHOTO BY GERMAN VILLASENOR

Southpaw Segura hammers Calderon with a right hook. Once his man is hurt, Segura is a ruthless finisher, winging one murderous punch after another.

I didn't know what to do. Even talking about it makes me chilled."

The result gained attention far beyond most 108-pound fights. It became an immediate Fight of the Year candidate, and a rematch quickly became topic of debate. And the website ILW.com, which is devoted to immigration news, named Segura and Stephen N. Zack—the first Hispanic president of the American Bar Association—as its "Immigrants Of The Week."

A week after the fight, Ivan Rivera, president of the Puerto Rico Best Boxing promotional group, told the Puerto Rican newspaper *El Vocero* that he had spoken with Calderon and a rematch might be in order.

"He is not going to retire," Rivera said. "We evaluated one of the options and that is a rematch with Segura. It's something we had talked about beforehand, and they told us they would not have trouble doing it. These are the two best fighters in the division, and a rematch would be an exciting fight. We're evaluating where it could be and when."

Mota, for his part, praised Rivera's company for "promoting fights better than they do in Las Vegas" and did not dismiss the possibility that his Top Rank-promoted fighter might accept the rematch.

El Vocero also reported that Calderon, while playing dominoes and eating fricasseed rabbit the day after the fight, acknowledged that Segura "gave me a beatdown from which I could not recover."

Calderon added: "Then I decided to kneel and take a bad rap because today is a day and tomorrow is another. It was just a very personal and intelligent decision."

As excited as Segura was about unifying the WBA title he already had with the WBO belt Calderon held, he was far more thrilled about the prospect of receiving his title belt from THE RING.

"All the times I would come back running from the gym, I'd stop at the Rite Aid store and they always had THE RING magazine," he said. "They had all the top fighters in that magazine. I'd always say to myself, *if one day I can make in here, that means I'm somebody*. Before, there was no websites, and it was hard to know what was going on in Europe and know what was going on around boxing. The only way to know what was going on in boxing was through that magazine. So I'd be at the Rite Aid, hiding from the guy at the store who would say, 'If you're not going to buy it, don't be touching those magazines.' So winning THE RING belt was something special to me."

Segura incurred a draw in his second pro fight and avenged his only loss, to Cesar Canchila on a 12-round decision on the Antonio Margarito-Miguel Cotto card in 2008, via scintillating fourth-round technical knockout less than a year later.

Margarito's destruction of Cotto that same night came under heavy scrutiny when Margarito subsequently was caught with loaded handwraps before entering the ring to fight Shane Mosley. The trainer suspended for that infraction, Javier Capetillo, also trains Segura.

Segura originally was trained exclusively by Nolasco, and then Manuel "Chato" Robles was brought on board when the fighter graduated to 10-round fights, in late-2006. But Robles died shortly after the union, and Segura returned to Nolasco. After Segura's loss to Canchila, Capetillo entered as the new head trainer.

PHOTO BY GERMAN VILLASENOR

Referee Jose Hiram Rivera counts out Calderon in the eighth round, ending his reign as junior flyweight world champion. It was Calderon's first professional defeat. Despite the emphatic nature of the ending, a rematch is a strong possibility.

Segura insists Capetillo never has wrapped his hands, a task which has fallen to Arturo Mota for every one of his bouts, as both an amateur and a pro. Capetillo strictly is a tactician who worked Segura's corner for fights in Mexico but was forced to sit ringside for the Calderon bout.

Certainly, a quick look at Segura's long history of knockout victories and a cursory glance at his vicious commitment to power punching dismiss any contention that his career was build on plaster-laced wraps.

"As soon as someone feels my punches, I have to chase them," Segura said. "People know I hit hard, but they have no idea. If somebody feels my punches, they're going to move around. The only way to know how hard I hit is to put on eight-ounce gloves and feel the punches. I hit really hard. Once you get hit by me, you don't think the same. You don't have a game plan. Your game plan turns into how in the heck am I going to move around because this guy's going to kill me."

Fatherhood betrayed the softer side of the fighting machine. Segura and his girlfriend, Yetlandy Sanchez, are parents of a three-year-old daughter, Katie Segura. The father acknowledges that before his daughter's birth, it often was difficult for him to discipline himself to wake up early for roadwork. He said that isn't a problem anymore.

"When you have that child, you see that little angel sleeping, and you think, *she's waiting for you, she's right there, waiting for you to give her something*," Segura said. "That makes all the feeling of being tired and sore go away. It makes you wake up it makes you work harder. It makes you think, *I can't believe I'm bitching about this. I'm young, I'm strong.* It makes you realize how we make our lives difficult when we can make them easier."

Segura has made life difficult enough for fighters from 108 to 115 pounds. After turning pro in 2003, he fought two-thirds of his career bouts at 112 or 115 before reducing to 108 in 2006. As a titleholder, he knocked out Sonny Boy Jaro with a single bodyshot and had Walter Tello out on his feet after the second round, with Tello's cornerman carrying the fighter back to the corner, before destroying him in the third.

Making weight is "getting harder," Segura said, although if the right fight comes along—against WBC titlist Omar Nino or IBF titleholder Luis Alberto Lazarte—he "would sacrifice a little bit more to fight big fights at this weight, but I'm not fighting someone who's just another name on the record."

Mota also named Rodel Mayol and Brian Viloria as possible opponents.

Regardless, the fighter named Giovanni, after a famous soccer player his parents liked, remains very much the Mexican trying to work for a better life, even if the pay is better and the recognition far greater now.

"If the biggest names in this division don't want to fight me, I don't see the point in staying here," he said. "People are paying to see you fight a good guy, not a bad guy who you know you're going to knock out in two or three rounds. So if there's nothing here, if there are no big fights, then we're definitely going to jump to 112. As a person, as a fan, I try not just to win, but win big. I want to please the audience because they're the ones who put food on our tables." ■

David Mayo covers boxing for the Grand Rapids (Michigan) Press and is a regular contributor to THE RING.

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BAD BOY Makes Good

Reformed Rios Invigorates Lightweight Division

By Don Stewart

An angry Brandon Rios was pacing back and forth in his dressing room, minutes away from his September 11 showdown with fellow lightweight contender Anthony Peterson.

Rios' thoughts were wandering from his opponent to the pride pricks he'd suffered in the preceding days. He picked at the scabs, remembering all the lip service promoter Top Rank paid Peterson at the final press conference, remembering HBO's stirring prefight segment on Peterson, remembering those Vegas odds that had Peterson tabbed as a 3-to-1 favorite.

Rios suddenly stopped and slammed his gloves together. "No one thinks I can win this fight, do they Cameron?" Rios asked manager Cameron Dunkin.

"No," Dunkin replied. "No one but us. They all think you'll get your ass kicked."

Rios paused for a moment and then unleashed a wild grin. "I bleeping love it!"

Rios' domination of Peterson surprised a lot of people and thrust "Bam Bam" into the thick of the lightweight picture. Providing he continues to avoid further legal trouble, Rios could be a serious threat to win the 135-pound title.

PHOTO BY NAOKI FUKUDA

The boxing world is falling in love with Rios, who went on to steal the show from headliner Yuriorkis Gamboa at the Palms Casino Resort. Energetic, charismatic, and just plain tough, Rios overwhelmed the favored Peterson, who was dropped once and hurt several times before being disqualified for low blows at the end of the seventh round.

"Another two or three fights on HBO and he'll be a superstar," said trainer Robert Garcia, who compares Rios to Arturo Gatti. Dunkin likens him to Johnny Tapia, due to Rios' chaotic fighting style and sometimes-chaotic life outside the ring. Rios says he's modeled himself after Marco Antonio

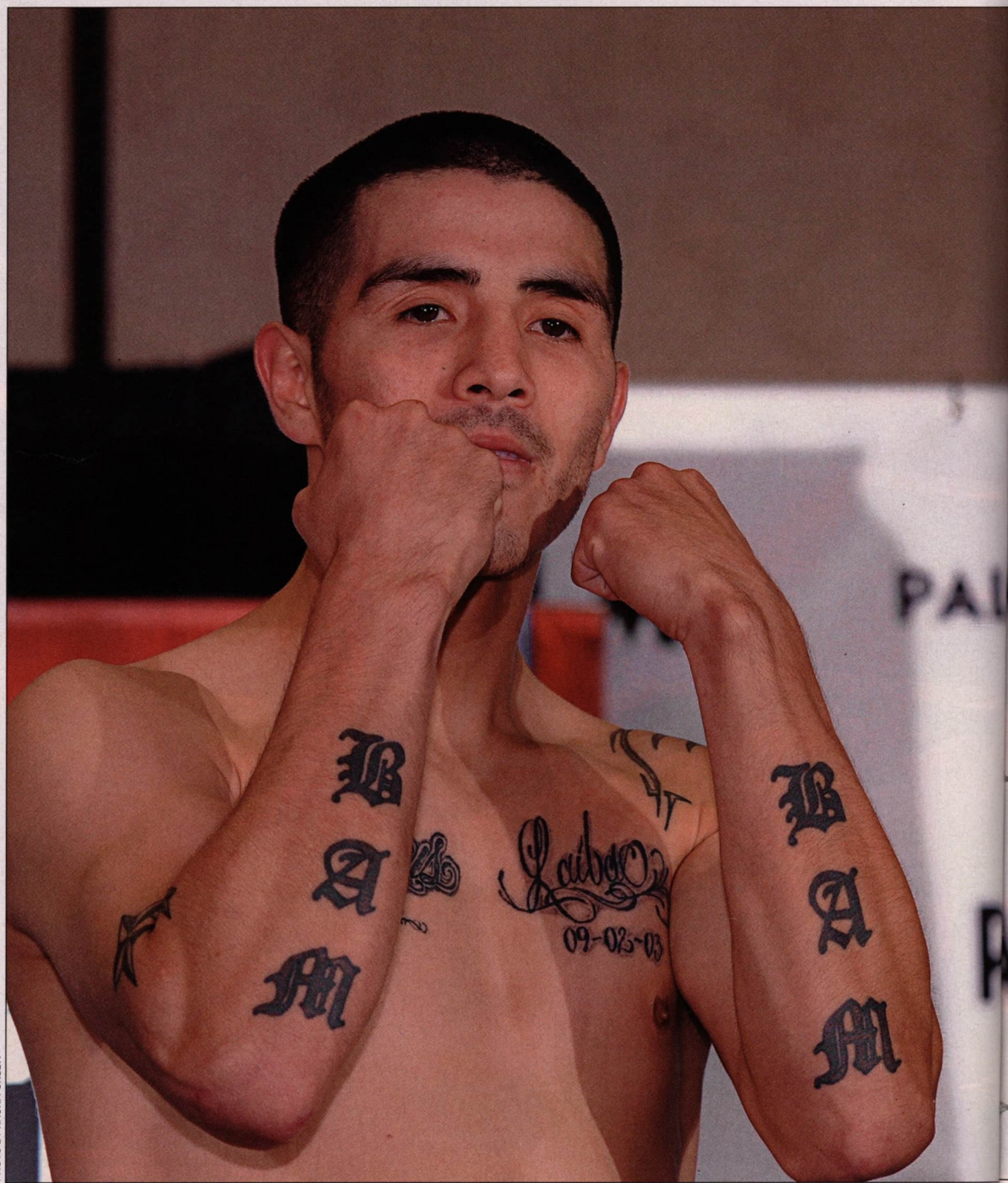
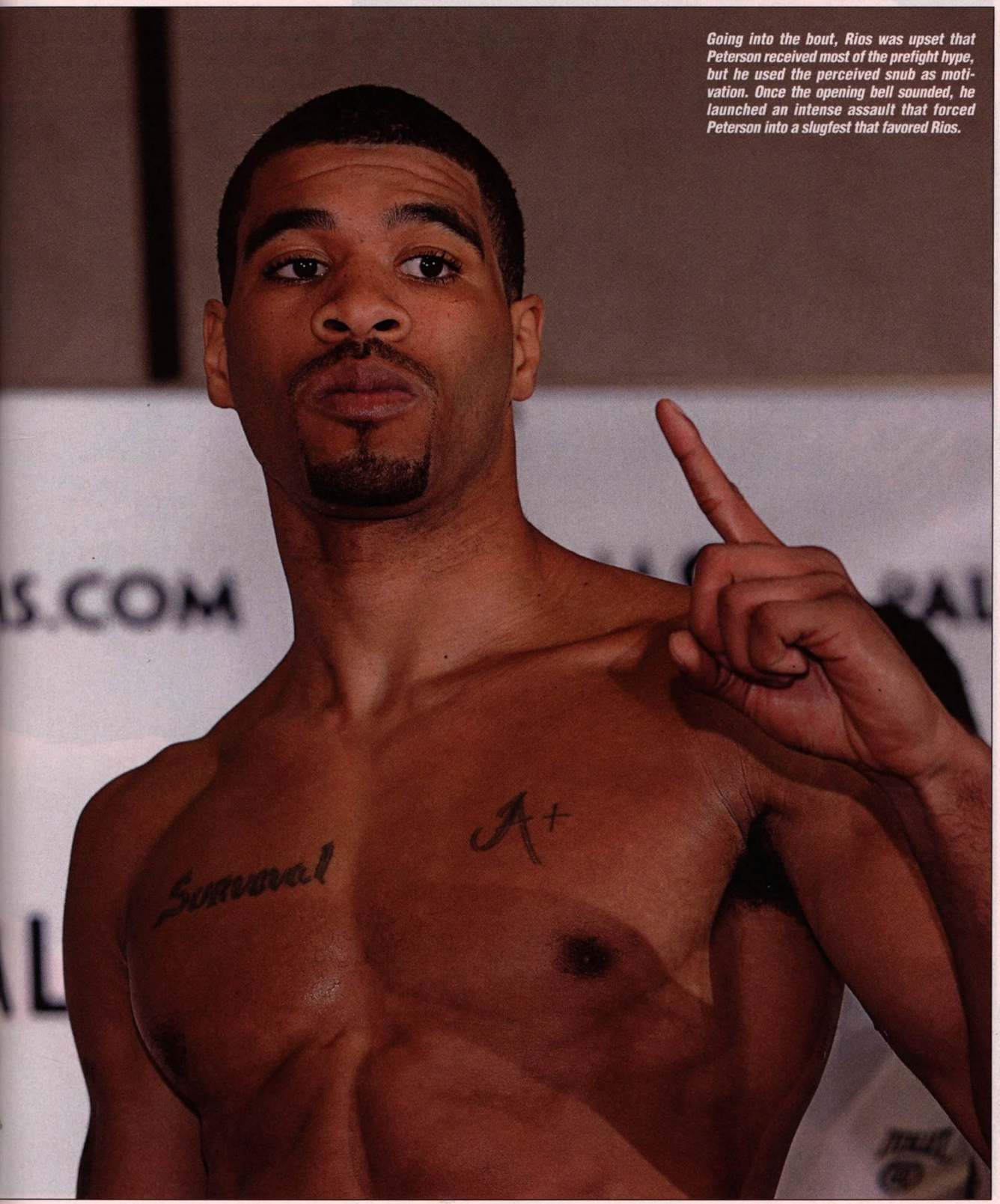


PHOTO BY NAOKI FUKUDA

Barrera (body punching), Jose Luis Castillo (uppercuts) and Oscar De La Hoya (Mexican-American).

Add it up, and Rios is an irresistible combination of ability and flaws, a fighter who has instantly revived a top-heavy lightweight class that's been pining for fresh faces. "I made a pretty clear statement," Rios said. "I'm the new threat to the 135-pound division."

Peterson, 30-1 (20), was easily the most accomplished opponent Rios had met to date, but the 24-year-old "Bam Bam" had no problems stepping up in class. That came as a surprise to many observers. Rios, 25-0-1 (18), had fought on Top Rank's "Latin Fury" pay-per-view shows and televised Spanish-language



Going into the bout, Rios was upset that Peterson received most of the prefight hype, but he used the perceived snub as motivation. Once the opening bell sounded, he launched an intense assault that forced Peterson into a slugfest that favored Rios.

PHOTO BY NAOKI FUKUDA

PHOTO BY NAOKI FUKUDA

There were a number of bristling exchanges between Rios and Peterson but although Peterson landed numerous flush punches (top), Rios seemed unfazed. On the other hand, when Rios connected (above), the blows had a greater effect.

cards but was still somewhat of an unknown quantity.

On the other hand, Peterson, who entered the bout as THE RING's fifth-ranked lightweight, has been among the sport's most heavily hyped up-and-comers the past few years. Along with terrific amateur careers, he and brother Lamont share a moving background story stemming from a childhood that can be considered dismal, even by boxing standards.

"Nobody gave him much of a chance," Dunkin said of Rios. "The only ones who believed in him were those who were close to him. People out West knew who he was, but many people in boxing still didn't know. It was his chance to get on TV and finally be seen against a quality opponent, and he stepped up, big time."

Conventional wisdom had the skilled Peterson using his faster hands and four-inch reach advantage to outbox and befuddle the Garden City, Kansas, native. But Rios, who had a fine amateur career in his own right, proved to be more than just a crude slugger. After Peterson jabbed his way through the first round, he picked up the pressure, and forced Peterson into a fight.

A minute into the second, Rios landed a left hook to the body, followed by back-to-back right uppercuts to the chin that spun Peterson's head. Peterson stood his ground and fired back at close range, often tagging Rios cleanly. The result was fantastic two-way action and a very close round, though Rios clearly had much more pop on his punches than

Peterson seems a bit bewildered as referee Russell Mora directs Rios to a neutral corner. Following numerous low blows and several warnings, Mora took two points away from Peterson. Even then, Peterson continued to punch low and was disqualified at the end of the seventh round.

PHOTO BY RAY KASPROWICZ/FIGHTWIRE IMAGES

Peterson, whose shots barely seemed to faze Rios.

"I build momentum as each round goes on and on," Rios said. "I just stepped up my game more and more and more." The relentless Rios was in control by the third, when he threw 131 punches according to CompuBox, and began mixing a potent left hook to the head, with his bodywork and uppercuts. Meanwhile, Peterson threw just seven jabs. Rios hurt Peterson three times with left hands in the fourth and was smiling at the bell.

"Why are you making it so hard for me tonight?" asked Peterson's trainer, Barry Hunter, who begged his fighter to jab and move side-to-side.

Peterson began the fifth on his toes and managed to keep the charging Rios off him for much of the round. In the final 10 seconds, Peterson stepped forward and threw a four-punch combo in an attempt to steal the round. Rios countered with a perfectly timed left hook to the jaw that put Peterson down for the first time in his career.

"He just took Peterson's heart," Garcia said. "He just dominated him. That was the plan: Walk right through him; don't respect any of his punches. He fought the perfect fight."

Peterson began his Andrew Golota impersonation in the sixth. Referee Russell Mora warned him for a low blow a minute into the round but did not stop the action. Peterson continued firing painful uppercuts into Rios' cup, however, forcing Mora to call three timeouts in the round. The first drew a formal warning, the second resulted in the loss of a point, and the third cost Peterson another point.

Though slowed by the low blows, Rios was still hurting Peterson, whose left eye began to swell in the seventh. Rios connected with a right uppercut midway through the round that rocked Peterson's head back. After nearly flooring Peterson with a right hand 10 seconds before the bell, Rios was hit with three low blows, forcing Mora to disqualify Peterson.

"That was his way of quitting," Rios said. "He didn't want to get knocked out. That was his way of just quitting instead of getting knocked out."

In the ring afterward, Peterson gave a muddled answer when HBO's Max Kellerman asked him about the low blows, saying repeatedly that he needed to "make a better assessment of the tape." As for his lack of jabs, Peterson said: "I don't make no excuses. Only I and God know why I didn't use my jab."

A bigger puncher constantly in his face throwing 100 shots per round might have been a factor. When we get a result we don't expect, human instinct is to focus on why it didn't happen, rather than just admit we were wrong. In the case of Rios-Peterson, there was an assumption that Peterson could have jabbed and boxed his way to a win, but chose instead to fight Rios' fight. There are times, however, when an aggressor is able to impose his will and dictate the fight. See Marvin Hagler-Tommy Hearns and, more recently, Giovanni Segura-Ivan Calderon.

"I just forced my game plan on him, and he couldn't handle it," Rios said. "When someone's putting tremendous pressure on you, it's hard to jab and box, especially if you have the mentality that you want to fight back. He just fought the wrong game plan."

The lightweight division is ruled by champion Juan Manuel Marquez, who is scheduled to fight number-one contender Michael Katsidis on November 27. The other top contenders, including beltholders Miguel Acosta and Humberto Soto, are exciting and accomplished but not exactly stars in the United States. Any of the four versus Rios would figure to have Fight-of-the-Year potential. If Rios had his wish, though, his next opponent would be fellow Garden City native Victor Ortiz at 140 pounds. Ortiz left Garcia and Dunkin in a bitter split in 2007, and bad blood lingers between the two camps.

While Garcia fears the top names will avoid Rios, given how dominant he looked against Peterson, Dunkin feels the lingering doubts will work to his fighter's advantage.

"I think the bigger guys are going to want to face him," Dunkin said. "They'll say he got lucky, or Peterson had a bad night, or Peterson was overhyped and wasn't that good. He won't be avoided yet because he's not a flashy guy. He's just a blue-collar, blood-and-guts tough guy. A lot of people think they can hit this guy."

Many of the doubts surrounding Rios before the Peterson fight stemmed from the first four years of his pro career, when he spent almost as much time in Garden City jails and courthouses as he did in the gym. Rios was routinely arrested for brawls, domestic incidents, and traffic violations whenever he'd return home after his fights. In terms of training, he made a habit of only showing up to the

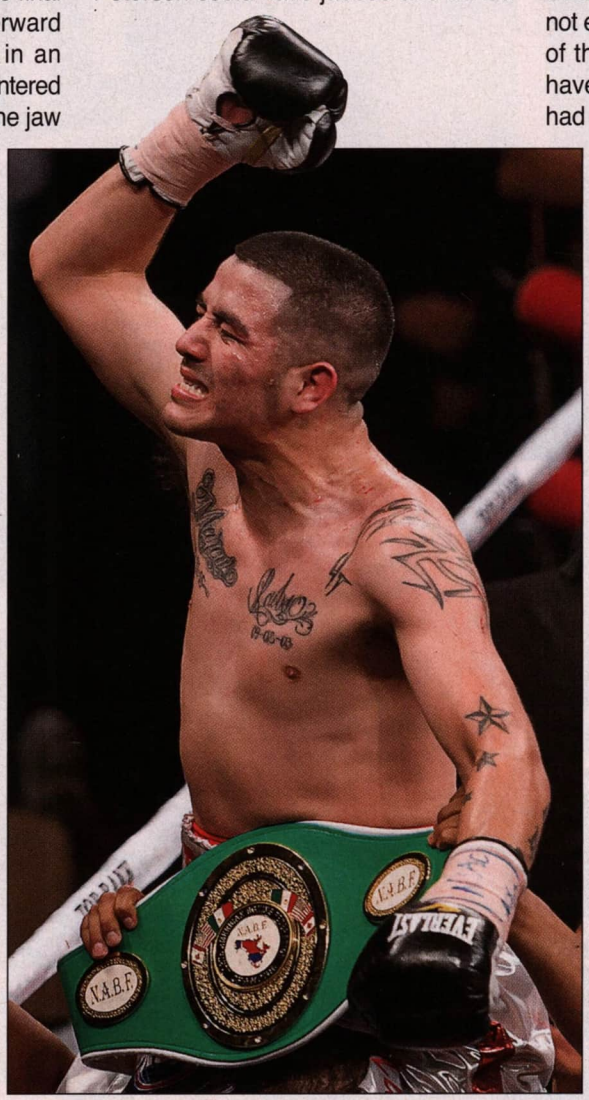


PHOTO BY RAY KASPROWICZ/FIGHTWIRE IMAGES

Rios celebrates the biggest win of his career, a fight that many pundits expected him to lose. The victory earned the exciting slugger the number-five spot in THE RING lightweight ratings and a lot of new fans.

PHOTO BY CRAIG BENNETT/FIGHTWIRE IMAGES

PHOTO BY TOM HOGAN/GOLDEN BOY PROMOTIONS

Rios' targets: If he had his choice, Rios would love to fight Victor Ortiz (left) next. He would also make an outstanding challenger for the winner of the upcoming bout between lightweight world champion Juan Manuel Marquez (right) and Michael Katsidis.

gym a week or two before each fight to lose weight in a hurry.

A little more than four years into his career, Rios was 18-0-1 (11) and coming off a 10-round majority draw against the ordinary Manuel Perez. "I was a mystery," Rios recalled. "Brandon Rios was a mystery. You don't know what's going to happen with this kid. He can be a screw-up, or he can be a world champion."

On the verge of being dumped by Top Rank, Rios decided to move permanently to his training base of Oxnard, California. He began dating Vicky Lopez, a California social worker who assists troubled youth. Lopez might have gotten her toughest assignment in Rios, but she's proven to be a positive influence in his life. Rios has avoided trouble the past two years, having greatly limited his time in Garden City. Rios and Lopez were wed a few weeks before the Peterson fight and are expecting their first child in December.

Five days after beating Peterson, Rios was at a Target store in California, shopping for baby accessories. Garcia couldn't have imagined that a few years before.

"He'd have been back home for a month or two, and then he'd be in jail," Garcia said. "I'm very, very happy that now he doesn't think of going back home at all. He's married now, and he's happy. He knows that everything is going to keep getting better and better."

After beating Peterson, Rios was approached by a grinning Bob Arum. The promoter's stepson, Top Rank President Todd duBoef, had angered Rios by praising Peterson at the prefight press conference, while hardly mentioning Rios. But after the fight, there was Arum suddenly praising Rios.

"Everybody kind of doubted me, except for my manager and my trainer," Rios said. "Some of the Top Rank people doubted me. They thought they were feeding a raccoon to a lion. Maybe Bob Arum did think I was going to lose, but afterward everybody was like: 'Wow, where did this kid come from?'

"If you didn't know me, now you do know me. I think the Anthony Peterson fight brought me out to the world."

And the world can't wait for more. ■

HE ONLY LOOKED THE PART

Michael Grant's Long Road From Heir Apparent To Journeyman

By William Dettloff

Adamek snaps back Grant's head with a stiff jab en route to a unanimous 12-round decision victory on August 21 in Newark, New Jersey. Grant fought well in spots, but fell victim to an old bugaboo: He lacked the confidence to let his hands go on a regular basis.

PHOTO BY ED MULHOLLAND/FIGHTWIRE IMAGES

In mid-August, patrons of Route 287 or of The Garden State Parkway, heading northbound, away from Atlantic City and the depravities of the Jersey shore, were besieged by the startling presence of billboards advertising a prizefight in Newark, the state's oft-maligned Essex County hub.

"The Big Challenge," the signs beamed. On one side was an image of Tomasz Adamek: white, soft, almost pasty, his brown hair shaved into more or less a crew cut. Not at all imposing. Almost sheepish. Next to him Michael Grant, clearly much larger, black, bearded and muscular, his skin shimmering like a thoroughbred's after a warm-up run on a crisp October morning.

The billboards were the work of Main Events, Adamek's Totowa-based promotional outfit, which is headed by Kathy Duva. To Duva and her staff, Adamek has been a godsend. Once one of the game's premier promoters, the company took a hit with the retirement in 2007 of the late Arturo Gatti, a reliable, if regional, box office draw. Fernando Vargas, another star, quit the same year. Main Events' other high-profile fighters—Evander Holyfield, Riddick Bowe, Lennox Lewis—were from another era and long since gone or irrelevant.

With Adamek, Main Events found a fighter with a strong ethnic link to the community, a rare and precious thing these days. New Jersey, especially in its northern regions, has a burgeoning Polish presence.

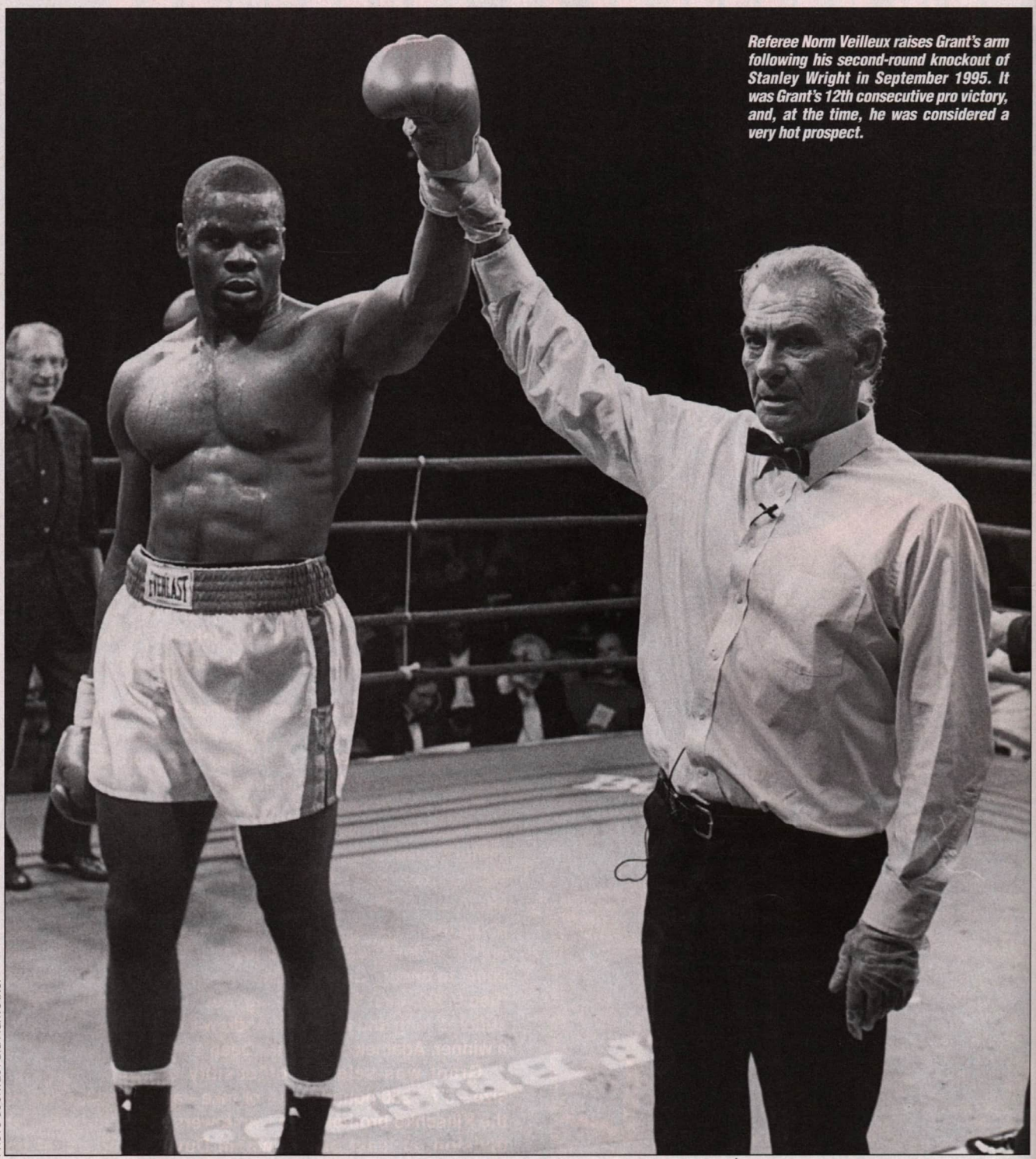
Adamek's home away from home has been The Prudential Center in Newark, the crown jewel in Newark Mayor Corey Booker's ongoing gentrification initiative. It is where Adamek beat Steve Cunningham, Jonathan Banks, Bobby Gunn and Jason Estrada. The shows all had the feeling about them of a raucous party, with Polish songs and antics and all manner of loud and joyous revelry. The fans that came to cheer "Goral" (5,000 or so the first couple times, then 9,000, then 10,000 strong) could not be faulted. They suffered long and hard with Andrew Golota. They deserved a winner. Adamek, so far, has been a winner.

Grant was selected ostensibly because his great size—6'7", 250 pounds, give or take—approximates that of the Klitschko brothers, the twin towers of the heavyweight division, at least one of whom Duva hoped could be

convinced to meet Adamek next year. If Adamek, a dwarf of a heavyweight as heavyweights go these days, could figure out a way to deal with Grant, maybe he could with the Klitschkos too. Big is big.

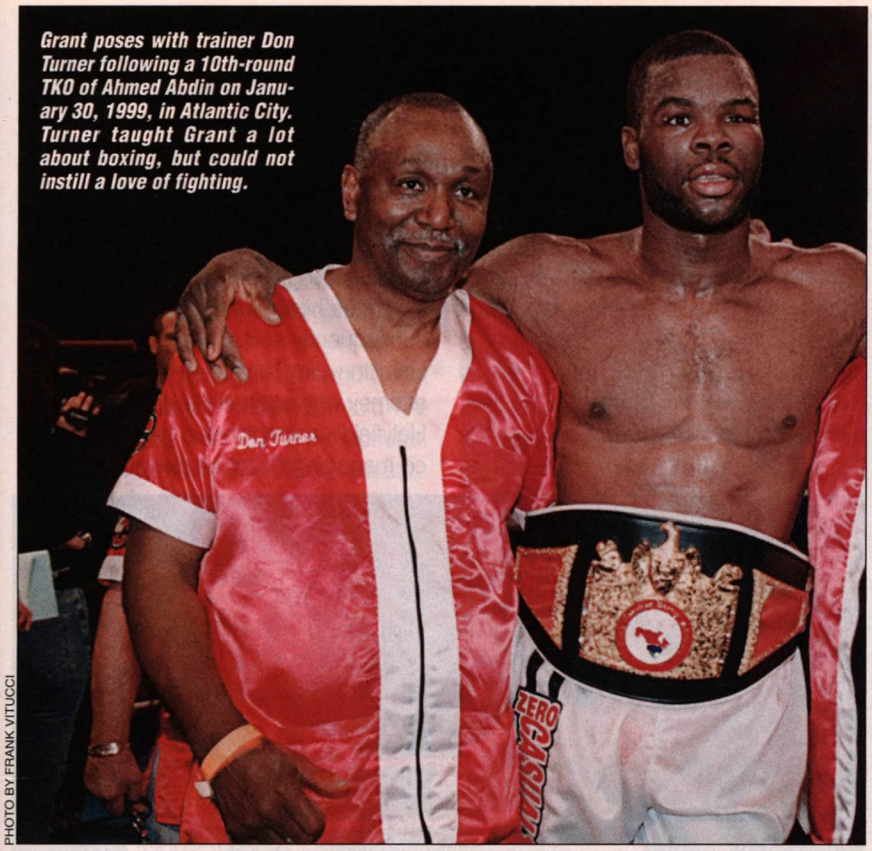
For Grant, it was manual work, a laborer's chore, playing stand-in for a fully realized and successful giant. Wladimir Klitschko, the younger of the two brothers, is the world heavyweight champion, a role that was supposed to have been Grant's. He was the "heir apparent," an outdated term now but one that seemed invented for him in the late-1990s when he was undefeated, getting paid more by HBO than many world champions, and streaking toward a shot at Lewis, presumably the outgoing king.

By now, Grant's story is well known. An outstanding all-around athlete, he never picked up a pair of boxing gloves until he was 21 years old. In a business where the best practitioners can hook off the jab before they can ride a bike, he got an irrevocably late start. The hope and the wish was that his great size, athleticism, and appearance—he simply *looked* like



Referee Norm Veilleux raises Grant's arm following his second-round knockout of Stanley Wright in September 1995. It was Grant's 12th consecutive pro victory, and, at the time, he was considered a very hot prospect.

PHOTO COURTESY BIG FIGHTS INC.



Grant poses with trainer Don Turner following a 10th-round TKO of Ahmed Abdin on January 30, 1999, in Atlantic City. Turner taught Grant a lot about boxing, but could not instill a love of fighting.

PHOTO BY FRANK VITUCCI

a heavyweight champion—would compensate. For a while, it did.

Grant was managed early on by Bill Cayton, who 10 years earlier had co-managed Mike Tyson to early and catastrophic success, and Craig Hamilton, a Long Island boxing memorabilia collector. Grant did away with the usual heavyweight flotsam and learned the rudiments of the game under Don Turner, a veteran trainer credited by some with orchestrating Holyfield's upset wins over Tyson.

Under Turner's tutelage, Grant more or less sailed past his first 25 opponents, no small feat given his lack of experience. By 1998, he was facing ranked, higher-quality heavyweights such as David Izon, Obed Sullivan, and Ahmed Abdin, and the formula held. He was still winning and playing to moderately good crowds in Atlantic City, but his team, by then, knew something was missing. And it wasn't just experience.

"I think for a long time a lot of us that were with Mike wouldn't accept what he is and what he isn't," Hamilton told THE RING a couple weeks after Grant dropped a unanimous decision to Adamek in Newark.

"Michael is not really a fighter. He's not a guy that ever liked fighting. He knew he could do it. And as we went along the trip with him most of the time, when he got to a certain level, most of the guys he fought were truly better fighters than he was technically, but it didn't make any difference. He was just too much for them physically. He would just beat them down."

Hamilton said that even as Grant was winning, he thought his fighter could do more, given his athleticism and size. It was a long while before he realized Grant just didn't have the mentality of a true fighter.

"It was because we could see the fabulous potential there. With everything in his arsenal, we felt like if there was just some way to get more juice going in this guy. But you're really not going to get that from someone who doesn't like the sport to start with."

Still, Grant was doing well, beating the guys HBO and his management team put in front of him. When he ground down tough Lou Savarese over 10 rounds in New York on HBO, the title shot was a near certainty. By mid-1999, THE RING rated him among the world's top-five heavyweights. His team took one more big fight—against Golota, the skilled, hard-punching, and emotionally fragile Pole who twice threw away victories against Bowe when he could not or would not stop hitting below the belt.

On the same night and in the same ring where Stephan Johnson took a light jab from Paul Vaden, went to sleep and never woke up again, Golota hit Grant with a right hand in the first round and dropped him hard. Another knockdown followed. But Grant stood up and muscled his way back into the fight. He gradually wore down Golota, and, after getting dropped himself in the 10th, Golota told referee Randy Neumann that if this was the way things were going to go, he preferred not to continue.

Those who doubted Grant all along felt vindicated by what they saw as proof that he had a weak chin. His fans pointed to the heart he showed getting up from two first-round knockdowns. To then-heavyweight champion Lewis, Grant was suddenly irresistible. A title shot was proffered and accepted, and, from all appearances, Grant was confident. He had reason to be. After all, he was undefeated in 31 professional fights.

"I know that people say that because Andrew Golota dropped me with a right hand, then Lennox Lewis is going to do even worse to me with his right hand," Grant told THE RING shortly before the Lewis fight. "But keep in mind, he's only Lennox. He's not a machine. He's flesh and blood, just like I am. And as far as I'm concerned, the only thing he has on me is experience, which doesn't bother me since I've fought experienced guys my entire career ... Lennox will bring out the best in me."

You know what happened then. Lewis destroyed Grant in two rounds. Afterward, Turner told Hamilton, who is about 6'2" and in the 240s: "If Grant were the same size as you, he'd be 0-31."

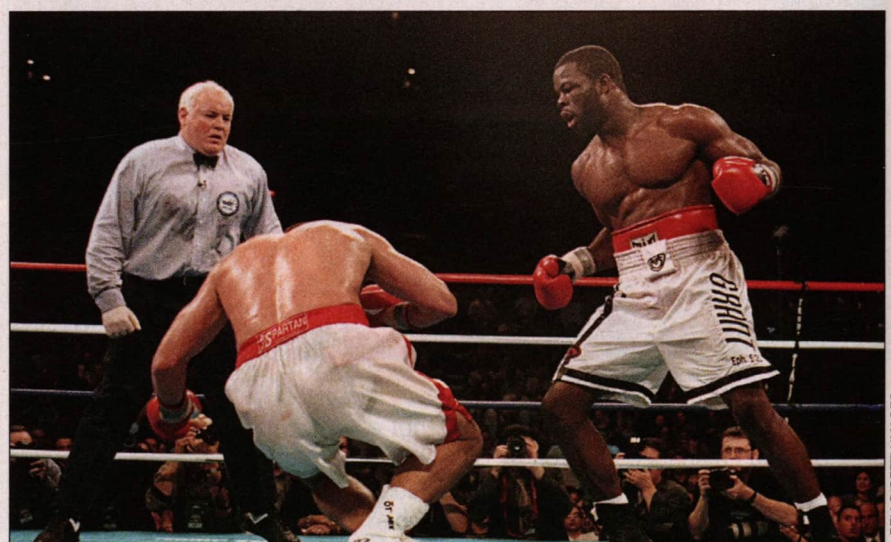
And then the wheels really came off. Hamilton said it was bound to happen sooner or later, but the crash started with the Golota fight.

"Michael is a tremendous athlete. Really gifted," said Hamilton. "But you have a person here who has tremendous insecurities. So what you do when you're bringing him along is try to build his con-

fidence. But it's not something you can really do with a person. It's like power: You either have it or you don't. When Michael came to us, he was not the most secure, confident guy. Golota hit Michael with a perfect shot in the first round. Whatever confidence he had up to that point was gone. His chin was gone."

A switch in trainers after the Lewis fight, from Turner to Teddy Atlas, didn't help. Jameel McCline stopped Grant in the first round. When Atlas later obtained Grant an ESPN fight, a produced segment had him mock sparring with 1970s journeyman and part-time ESPN analyst Scott LeDoux. LeDoux feinted a jab to Grant's body. Grant, showing how little he had developed as a fighter, dropped his hands, and LeDoux, who was in his 50s, demonstrated how easily he could have caught Grant with a left hook.

In June 2003, Dominick Guinn stopped Grant in the seventh round in Atlantic City, signaling the end of Grant's days as a serious heavyweight. Atlas and Grant subsequently split. So too did Grant and Hamilton. Jim Thomas, the Atlanta-based attorney who advised Holyfield throughout Holyfield's championship years, had been co-managing Grant along with Hamilton



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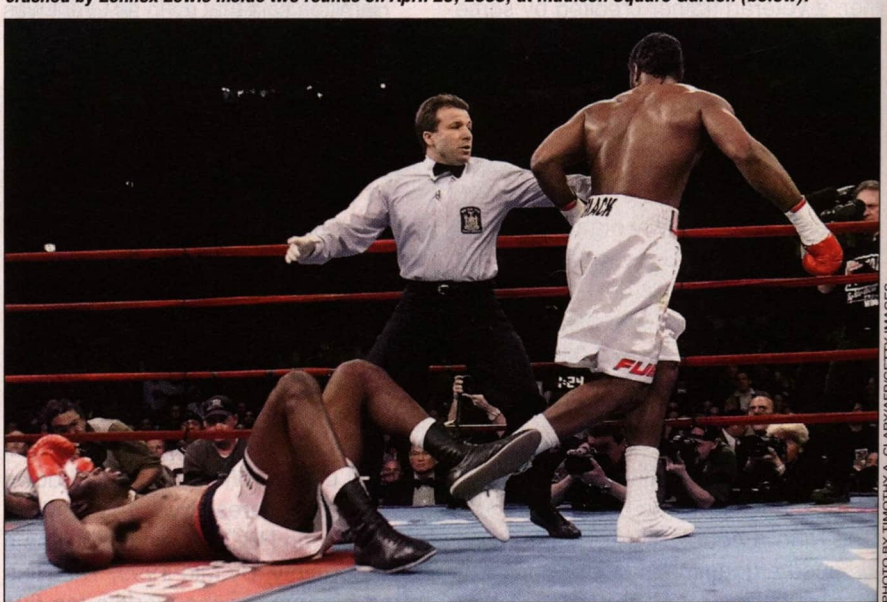

PHOTO BY TIMOTHY A. CLARY/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Grant's finest performance came in November 1999 when he climbed off the floor to stop Andrew Golota in the 10th round (above). In his next fight, Grant challenged for the heavyweight championship but was crushed by Lennox Lewis inside two rounds on April 29, 2000, at Madison Square Garden (below).

DON'T MISS WILLIAM DETTLOFF

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by that time and elected to stay on when Hamilton left.

Grant generally is loath to speak of that period, though he allows that he believes he could have used a few more fights before facing Lewis.

"Was I rushed? Only with the Lewis fight," Grant told THE RING in early-September. "I was rushed on that Lewis deal. He had everything. He was a smart, very smart champion."

Not surprisingly, Hamilton and Grant disagree on this point. Hamilton told THE RING, "Michael knew all of his options. He wanted Lewis. He could have lost to John Ruiz for a lot less money and then there would have been no Lewis fight. He certainly wasn't rushed. He was never a person who wasn't going to stand up and say what he felt about anything. If I believed that him fighting another three fights after the Golota fight would have helped him beat Lewis, I would be the first to say it."

It's 10 years since the Lewis fight, and Grant is 38 years old. He's softer around the middle than he was then, as we all are, and the beard is gone. He's still an Adonis. He's had eight fights in the seven years since Guinn wrecked him at Boardwalk Hall, winning all of them. But the victories were all but empty; the opposition was soft.

He's not the heir apparent anymore, but, as he prepared to meet Adamek, it must have felt like old times. Boxing writers scrambled to get close to him, to hear and record what he had to say. Others made repeated calls to his cell phone, and, if he didn't know them or feel like calling them back, he didn't. His trainer for the last four fights, Eddie Mustafa Muhammad, told anyone willing to listen that Main Events made a big mistake putting Adamek in with his guy. Grant, ever true to form, was more philosophical than pugnacious.

"I didn't know I'd still be boxing 10 years later," he said before the Adamek fight. "I thought by this time I'd have some belts and been retired at an early age.

"It was good for me to go through what I went through in this whole span. It brought experience, patience, things that were probably missing in my arsenal. Now those years have accumulated and those things are now a part of me—

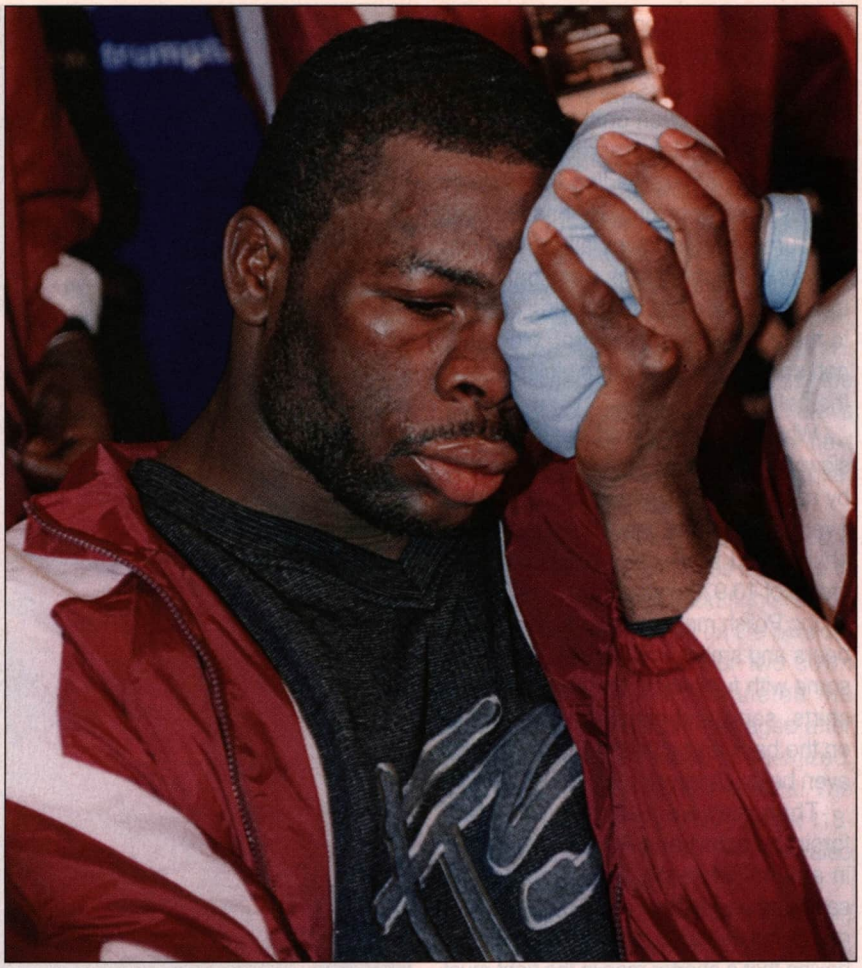


PHOTO BY MARTY ROSENGARTEN

Despite his career-best performance, Grant was not a happy camper following the Golota victory. Former co-manager Craig Hamilton said that even though Grant won the fight, it was the beginning of the end.

PHOTO BY MARTY ROSENGARTEN

More than 10,000 Adamek fans showed up at the Prudential Center for the Grant fight. Although his fans were never as fervent, Grant used to attract decent crowds to his fights in Atlantic City.

patience and experience. I am happy, and happy I am still here in one piece."

In the last days before the fight, Grant could be seen on the roof of The Best Western Hotel across from The Prudential Center, reading the Bible or silently shadow boxing. He had to know, of course, that in towns all around him armies of Adamek fans were gathering to cheer his defeat. And it didn't matter to them if it was easy or not, bloody or not, and, in truth, the more violent it was the better.

When the night arrived, the arena filled slowly. The preliminaries were witnessed by mainly empty seats, but, as the main event drew near, more and more red shirts filled in the empty gaps until a crowd of 10,972 was on hand. Hordes of young Polish men, rowdy and happy with beers and smiles and chunky girlfriends, some with funny hats that matched their shirts, sang and clapped one another on the back and chanted "Goral! Goral!" even before Adamek was visible.

Then they were in the ring, Grant forcing a scowl and Adamek bouncing in and out while the crowd roared and sang and waved their signs and hats. It is one of the many counterintuitive things in boxing that a shorter man in the fight must make himself shorter still to be effective, and this is what Adamek struggled to do throughout. It was a struggle because it is not in his nature to get low and box and move. As a cruiserweight, he was a predator, but, against heavyweights, and especially against Grant, he had to punch and get out of range, punch and get out of range.

It was Grant's job to either keep Adamek outside, where only Grant's punches would score, or to catch Adamek coming in. Yet over and over, Adamek jumped in with the same combination—jab, right-hand to the body, left-hook to the head—and time again, from the early through the middle rounds, it landed. And you wondered how Grant, in his 50th professional fight, could not see it coming.

Meanwhile, Grant jabbed and looked for ways to land the right hand. And waited. And plodded. And looked. And scowled. And got outworked.

Finally at the end of the sixth round, he caught Adamek coming in with the right he had been waiting the entire fight to land and it buckled Adamek. But the bell rang before Grant could press his advantage. As he turned toward his corner, Muhammad was already climbing through the ropes, pointing wildly at Adamek, his eyes wide with excitement and hope that this sudden success would inspire Grant to open up. It had already been an exasperating night for Muhammad trying to convince Grant to throw punches. At one point, he asked Grant why he was posing like he thought he was on the cover of *Cosmopolitan* magazine.

Muhammad hollered at Grant. He cursed. He pleaded. It was useless. He couldn't make Grant a fighter, not in a corner in the middle of a fight. Not ever. It was too late for that. And the athlete that Grant always has been was not going to beat Adamek, who is all *fighter*. Fighting is in Adamek. It is not in Grant, and all the cajoling in the world wasn't going to put it there. Muhammad could not make him believe in himself. It wasn't going to happen, but he tried.

"It was very, very frustrating," said Muhammad. "It took a lot out of me. I said 'Michael, if you don't want to do it for yourself, do it for your family.' He just gave me a blank stare.

"It's a shame. You spend eight, nine weeks with a guy, and you're telling him what to expect and what to look for, then when it happens, he falls into another gear. He doesn't want to put out. He didn't execute. Adamek was there for the taking. He was there. Michael just didn't execute."

Amateur psychologists will venture where Muhammad won't: Grant didn't execute because he didn't believe he could, because he believed that if he tried he would fail, and not trying your hardest and saying you'll do better next time is infinitely easier in the present than believing in yourself and taking the gamble. If you gamble and lose, there is no excuse. There is no "I'll do better next time." When you lay it all out and lose, there is nowhere to hide the failure.

This doesn't make Grant a loser. It makes him a man who does not have in him what makes very good fighters who they are, even if he has it on the outside.

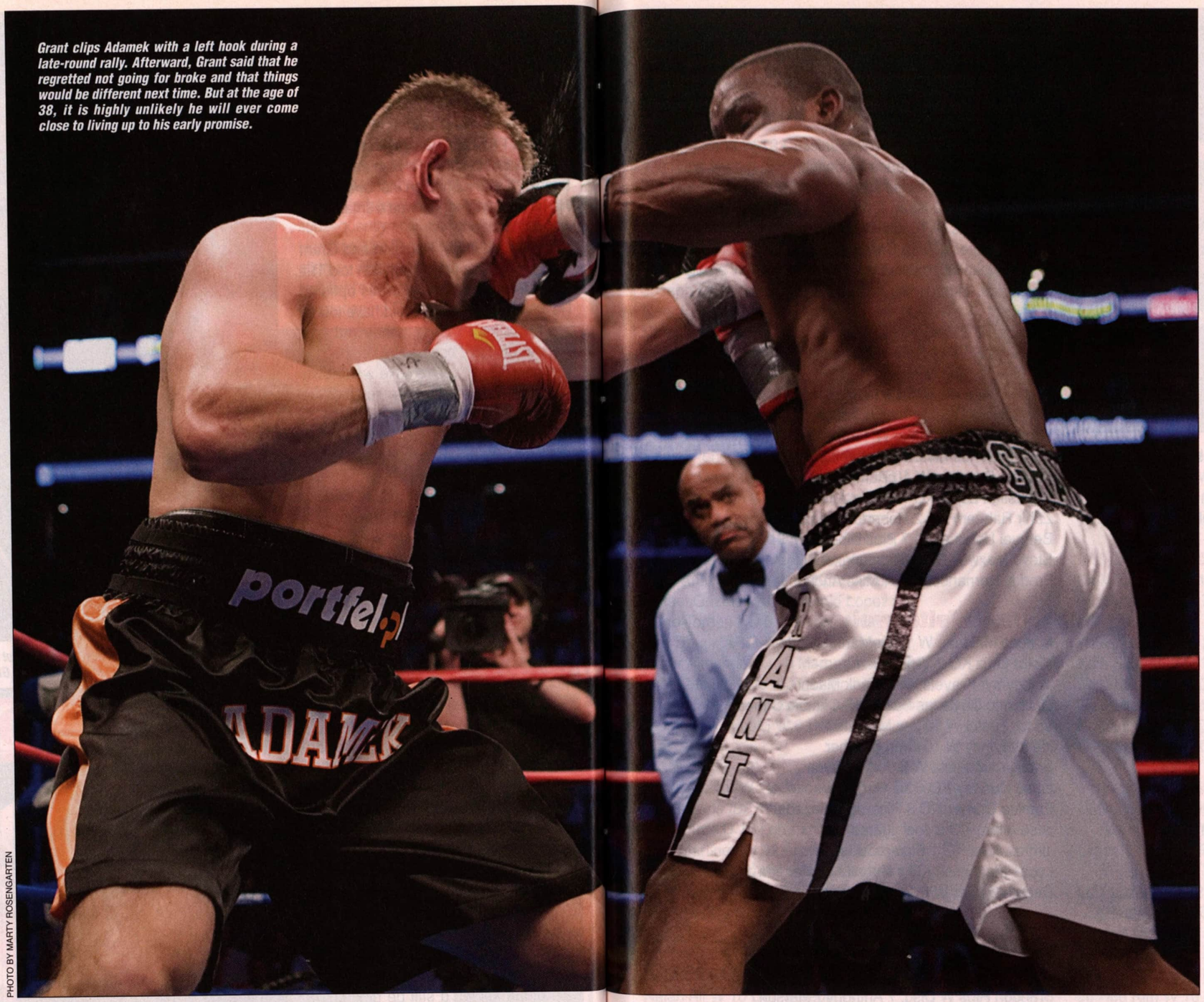
Grant had a moment or two down the stretch that almost quieted the crowd, and, in the 12th, he raged after Adamek like a man suddenly energized. But it was too late, and he knew it. The judges scored the bout for Adamek 118-110 (twice) and 117-111. The Ring also scored it for Adamek, 117-112.

Two weeks afterward, Grant allowed that he was concerned about having enough gas in the tank by the late rounds and paced himself accordingly. And he regretted it.

"I should have went and just put it out there," he said. "I was worried about later on, and I shouldn't have did that. Every day since the night of the fight, I've been down on myself. I learned from it. And I won't ever accept it again. Next time I'm bringin' it."

Grant is well past the time when talking like a fighter will make him one. We all are permitted the fantasy that one day soon we will wake up and be as we imagine and hope ourselves to be, but prizefighters, like undiscovered rock stars, do not find the secret in middle age. And "next times" rarely work out. We are who we are.

Meanwhile, reviews of Adamek's performance were mixed. Few judged him capable of staying with either of the Klitschkos, and, by the time he and Grant returned to their lives and tended to their bruises and scrapes, the billboards in Jersey were already advertising the next big thing. It's the way things work. ■



Grant clips Adamek with a left hook during a late-round rally. Afterward, Grant said that he regretted not going for broke and that things would be different next time. But at the age of 38, it is highly unlikely he will ever come close to living up to his early promise.

PHOTO BY MARTY ROSENGARTEN

[Summary]

Heavyweights

Wladimir Klitschko KO 10 Samuel Peter
(Retains World/IFB Titles)
Johnathon Banks W 12 Saul Montana
Timur Ibragimov KO 10 Gurcharan Singh
Emilio Zarate W 10 Miguel Morales
Neven Pajkic W 10 Raphael Butler
Tyson Fury W 8 Rich Power
Franklin Lawrence KO 7 Lance Whitaker
Chazz Witherspoon KO 7 Livin Castillo
Deontay Wilder KO 1 Shannon Caudle
Albert Sosnowski KO 1 Paul Butlin

Cruiserweights

Krzysztof Wlodarczyk W 12 Jason Robinson
(Retains WBC Title)
Tomasz Hutkowski D 10 Zakaria Azzouzi
Alexander Frenkel KO 7 Enzo Maccarinelli

Light Heavyweights

Nathan Cleverly KO 9 Karo Murat
Tamas Kovacs KO 4 Xhavit Visoka
Farah Ennis KO 3 Reggie Pena
Roberto Bolonti KO 3 Pablo Nievas
Otis Griffin W 8 Billy Bailey

Super Middleweights

Brian Magee KO 8 Roman Aramyan
Anthony Fitzgerald W 10 Robert Long
Alejandro Berrio W 10 Felix Hernandez
Amin Asikainen KO 4 Jaudiel Zepeda
Server Yemurlayev KO 10 Blas Martinez
Stanyslav Kashtanov KO 2 Ruslans Pojonisevs
Anthony Dirrell KO 1 Jimmy Campbell

Middleweights

Felix Sturm W 12 Giovanni Lorenzo
(Retains WBA Title)
Maksym Bursak W 12 Bryan Vera
Francis Cheka W 12 Sebyala Med
David Lopez W 12 Saul Roman
Jose Angel Rodriguez W 12 Russell Jordan
Andy Lee KO 8 Michael Walker
Matthew Macklin KO 6 Shalva Jomardashvili
Kassim Ouma KO 6 Joey Gilbert
Matt Korobov W 8 Anthony Greenidge

Junior Middleweights

Shane Mosley D 12 Sergio Mora
Anthony Mundine KO 10 Ryan Waters
Saul Alvarez KO 6 Carlos Baldomir
Charlie Ota W 12 Tadashi Yuba
Obodai Sai W 12 Isaac Tordjro Selom
Artem Karpets W 10 Ihor Fanian
Rogerio Pereira W 10 Carson Jones
Yuki Nonaka W 10 Dmytro Nikulin
Demetrius Andrade KO 2 Dave Saunders

Welterweights

Jan Zaveck W 12 Rafal Jackiewicz
(Retains IBF Title)
Erik Morales KO 6 Willie Limond
Kell Brook KO 5 Michael Jennings
Viacheslav Senchenko W 12 Jose Navarro
John O'Donnell W 12 Terrance Cauthen
Antonio Sanchez W 10 Ramon Ayala
Sebastian Lujan KO 7 Emilio Julio
Zahir Raheem KO 2 Roberto Valenzuela
Bethuel Ushona KO 7 Pius Dipheko
Steve Maxwell KO 5 Yodmongkol Singmanasak
Freddy Hernandez KO 4 Mike Anchondo

Junior Welterweights

Marcos Maidana W 12 DeMarcus Corley
Victor Ortiz KO 3 Vivian Harris
Volodymyr Kravets W 12 Tarik Madni
Guillermo De Jesus Paz W 10 Claudio Olmedo
Viktor Postol W 10 Jay Morris
Henry Lundy W 10 Omri Lowther
Frankie Archuleta W 8 Jorge Reyes
Isaac Quartey KO 6 Nii Akrofi
Frankie Gomez KO 3 Ricardo Calazada
Jose Alfaro KO 2 Joel Juarez
Jimrex Jaca KO 1 Pipino Cuevas Jr.
Lucas Matthysse KO 1 Rogelio Castaneda Jr.
Derrick Gainer W 6 Angel Hernandez

Lightweights

Humberto Soto W 12 Fidel Monterrosa
(Retains WBC Title)
Brandon Rios W Disq. 7 Anthony Peterson
John Murray KO 9 Andriy Kudryavtsev
Reyes Sanchez W 12 Daniel Estrada
Eudy Bernardo W 12 Tomas Mendez
Alisher Rahimov W 12 Sergio Thompson
Dorin Spivey W 10 Leo Martinez
Brett Smith W 10 Jason Crowe
Jose Pombo W 10 Eduardo Ramos
Humberto Gutierrez W 10 Rene Gonzalez
Ryuji Migaki KO 6 Akinori Kanai

Marcelino Lopez KO 6 Jeremias Castillo
Korley Collison KO 6 Aminu Turkson
George Ashie KO 5 William Commey

Junior Lightweights

Mzonke Fana W 12 Cassius Baloyi
(Wins Vacant IBF Title)
Takashi Uchiyama KO 5 Roy Mukhlis
(Retains WBA Title)
Miguel Roman KO 5 Tyrone Harris
Johnny Tapia KO 4 Jose Alonso
Ricky Burns W 12 Roman Martinez
Joseph Laryea KO 6 Ali Alabi
Nery Saguilan KO 9 Filomeno Jaramillo
Domingo Vilpan KO 6 Lazaro Santos De Jesus
Jorge Solis KO 6 Francisco Cordero

Featherweights

Yuriorkis Gamboa W 12 Orlando Salido
(Wins Vacant IBF Title)
Daniel Ponce De Leon KO 3 Antonio Escalante
Jhonny Gonzalez KO 6 Jackson Asiku
Stephen Smith W 12 John Simpson
Stanyslav Merdov W 12 Suat Laze
Francisco Leal W 12 Miguel Piedras
Sofiane Takoucht W 12 Oleh Yefimovych
Juan Antonio Rodriguez KO 9 Ariel Vasquez
Rafael Guzman KO 5 Sergio Lopez
Daud Tordan KO 5 Christian Avila
Rey Bautista KO 4 Alejandro Barrera
Timur Akhundov D 10 Mamed Yadgarov
Jhonatan Romero KO 2 Rufino Valdez
Chonlatarn Piriyapinyo KO 8 Sonny Gonzales
Emmanuel Lucero W 8 Robert DaLuz

Junior Featherweights

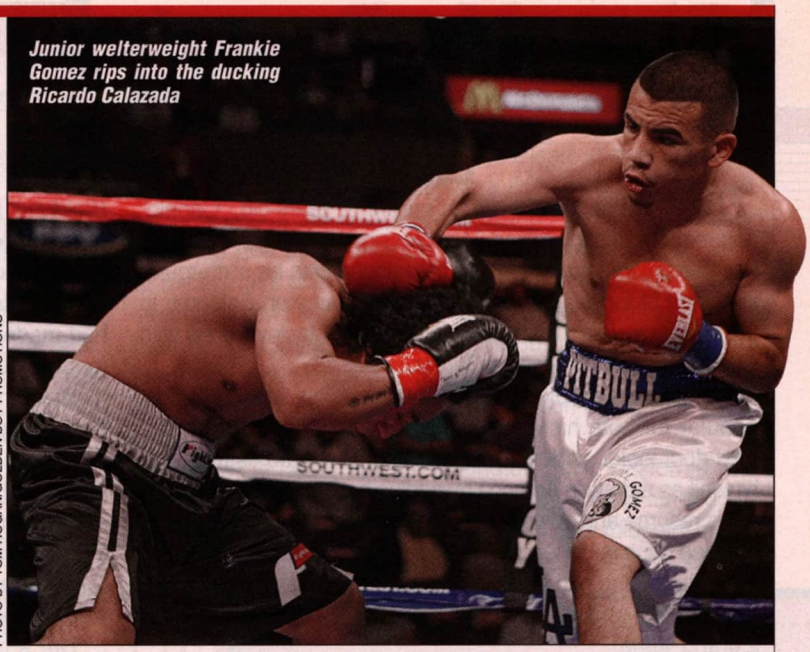
Steve Molitor W 12 Jason Booth
(Retains IBF Title)
Jorge Arce D 10 Lorenzo Parra
Kiko Martinez W 12 Arsen Martirosyan
Jessie Albaracin KO 8 Nino Magboo
Allan Tanada KO 3 Rikiya Fukuhara
Giovanni Caro KO 1 Franklin Varela

Bantamweights

Nestor Rocha W 8 Jose Navarro
Najah Ali W 10 Don Broadhurst
Isaac Nettey W 10 Gabriel Laryea
Tomoki Kameda W 10 Stephane Jamoye
David Gaspar KO 5 Jesus Ceja
Chris Avalos KO 3 Felipe Almanza

Junior Bantamweights

Tomas Rojas W 12 Kohei Kono
(Wins Vacant WBC Title)
Wladimir Sidorenko W 12 Mbwana Matumla



Junior welterweight Frankie Gomez rips into the ducking Ricardo Calazada

PHOTO BY TOM HOGAN/GOLDEN BOY PROMOTIONS

John Apolinario W 12 Vincent Palicte
Marco Demecillo W 10 Dondon Jimenea
Yota Sato W 10 Daigo Nakahiro
Cesar Seda W 10 Jose Lopez

Flyweights

Daiki Kameda W 12 Takefumi Sakata
(Retains WBA Title)
Milan Melindo KO 2 Jin-Man Jeon
Wilbert Uicab W 12 Edrin Dapudong
Xola Sifama KO 11 Wele Yokose
Edgar Sosa KO 10 Ryan Bito
Julio Miranda KO 9 Ronald Ramos
Rocky Fuentes KO 8 Yasuto Aritomi
Oscar Blanquet KO 4 Gerardo Pinon

Junior Flyweights

Giovanni Segura KO 8 Ivan Calderon
(Wins World Title/Retains WBA Title)
Omar Nino KO 6 Ronald Barrera
(Retains WBC Title)
Luis Lazarte W 12 Nerys Espinoza
(Retains IBF Title)
Ramon Hirales W 12 Manuel Vargas
Ulises Solis W 10 Luis Leon
Roman Gonzalez KO 2 Jesus Limones
Ju Hee Kim W 10 Jujeath Nagawa
Gilberto Keb Baas KO 8 Jose Vega

Strawweights

Oleydong Sithsamerchai D 12 Pornsawan Porpramook
(Retains WBC Title)
Denver Cuello KO 9 Muhammad Rachman
Michael Landero KO 8 Yasutaka Kuroki
Gabriel Mendoza W 10 Jorge Ballesteros
Carlos Velarde KO 3 Jorle Estrada

Saul Alvarez KO 6 Carlos Baldomir

Los Angeles, California: At barely 20 years old, "Canelo" Alvarez has already tallied 34 professional victories, but none has been more impressive and meaningful than his sixth-round knockout of former world welterweight champion Baldomir in the main undercard bout supporting Shane Mosley's draw with Sergio Mora at the Staples Center.

Alvarez is already a major attraction in his native Mexico, popular for both his aggressive fighting style and his boy-next-door looks, and he took a major step toward establishing himself as a draw in America by adding by far the biggest name to his resume and doing it in style. Baldomir, 39, had only been stopped once in his lengthy career, and that was 16 years ago. So Canelo icing him as he did made a major statement about the young prospect's punching power and ability to deliver on a grand stage.

Alvarez, 150½, Juanacatlan, Mexico, was greeted by overwhelming cheers and chants of "Canelo" from the crowd of 13,591 as he entered the ring, and, unlike in his previous US appearance, when he got badly rocked in the opening round by Jose Miguel Cotto before rallying to win, Alvarez didn't let the crowd or the moment affect him. The opening round was mostly uneventful, with Alvarez establishing superior speed (Baldomir is extraordinarily slow-fisted) and landing a handful of left hooks and right crosses. Both fighters got some decent business done in round two, and, though Alvarez won the round, Baldomir, 153½, Los Angeles via Santa Fe, Argentina, had made it clear the young man was going to have to work for the victory.

Baldomir began landing his looping right hand more in the third though Alvarez gradually adjusted and started picking off the punch and countering with a left hook. The action particularly picked up in the fourth with Baldomir buckling Alvarez' knees momentarily with a right hand before Canelo came back and landed two flush rights just before the bell. The veteran tapped his chin with his glove as he headed back to his corner.

But a couple of rounds later, it would be Alvarez' turn to tap that chin and show it's not quite as impervious as we had thought. Alvarez was boxing smart and landing occasional flush right hands but giving no indication of the breakthrough that was to come in the last minute of the sixth round. A right hand hurt Baldomir, 45-13-6 (14), and Alvarez stayed at long range and drilled him with a series of damaging blows. First a left

PHOTO BY NAOKI FUKUDA

Alvarez rocks Baldomir with a right

hook, then a right cross, then two excellent right uppercuts, and finally, with just a couple of seconds left before the bell, Alvarez, 34-0-1 (26), connected with a sensational left hook, putting Baldomir down for referee Jose Cobian's (USA) full count of 10.

"He hits really hard," Baldomir said. "His power really surprised me. This kid is the real deal, and he's going to be a champion. No one has hit me like he hit me before."

"I didn't talk a lot," Alvarez said afterward. "I just showed it. I came to give it my all. This is for Mexico and all of my fans. I was prepared, and sometimes a knockout comes when you prepare for it." Alvarez then said he intends to return to the welterweight division, following three-straight fights for which he weighed between 150 and 151 pounds.

Television: **Pay-Per-View**
Promoter: **Golden Boy Promotions**
(9-18-10)

Daniel Ponce De Leon KO 3 Antonio Escalante

Los Angeles, California: Most observers expected the bout between Ponce De Leon and Escalante to steal the show on the Shane Mosley-Sergio Mora PPV card, but it turned out only one of the two crowd-pleasing featherweights was up to the task and Ponce De Leon did some show stealing at Escalante's expense. The 30-year-old former 122-pound titlist dominated his 25-year-old opponent for the three rounds that the fight lasted, surprisingly outboxing him and not so surprisingly outslugging him before bombing him out with a southpaw left cross-right hook combination at the 2:40 mark of the third.

Ponce De Leon, 125¾, Huntington Park, California, via Cuauhtémoc, Mexico, came out firing his jab and landed his first trademark straight left hand at exactly the midpoint of the opening round. Escalante, 126, El Paso, Texas, via Juarez,

[The Ring Fighter of the Month]

Giovanni Segura

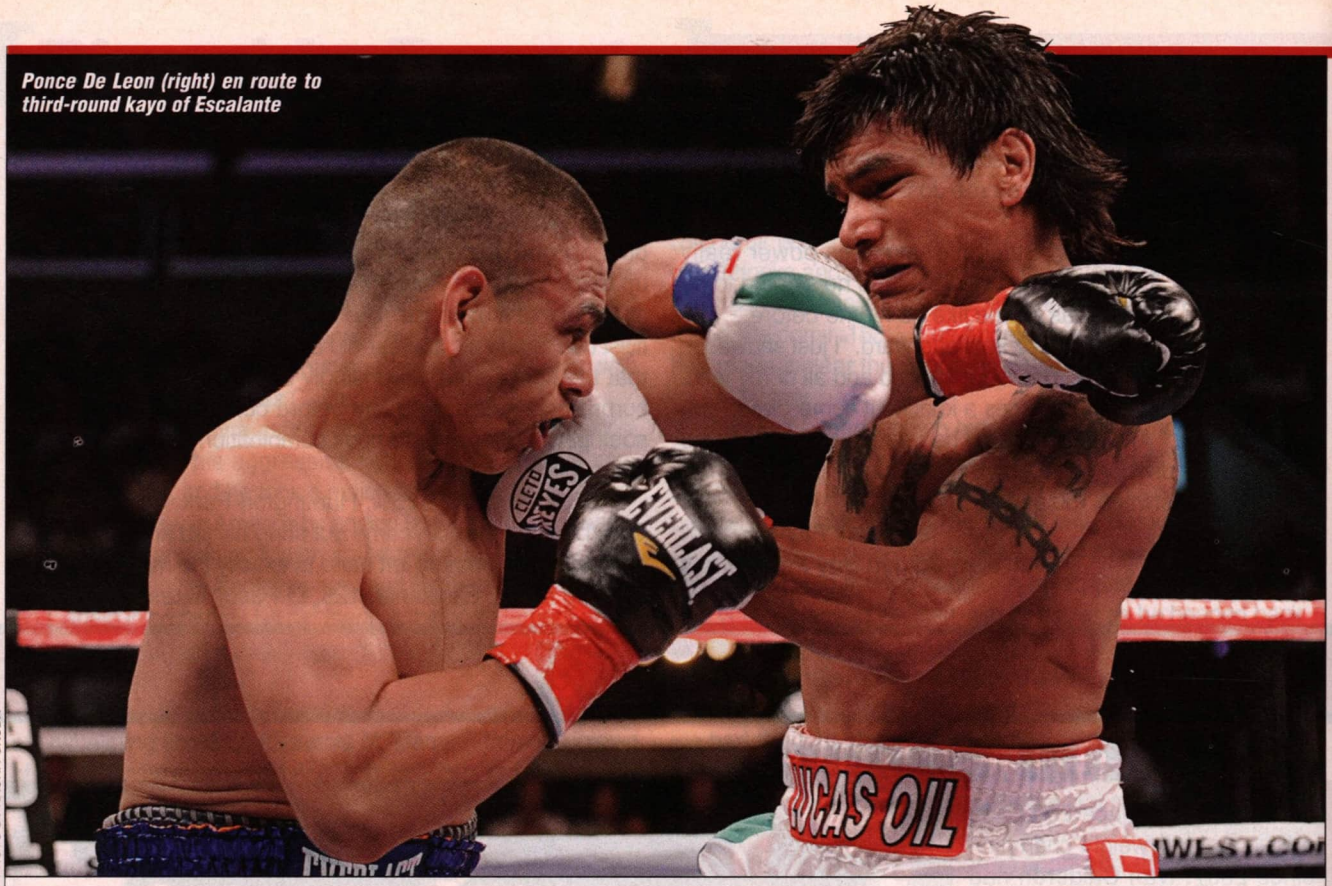
PHOTO BY GERMAN VILLASENOR

A beltholder since 2003 and a Ring junior flyweight champion since 2007, Ivan Calderon had dominated the 105- and 108-pound divisions for most of the past decade with his masterful boxing skills. He'd made 19 successful alphabet title defenses and, even at age 35, had many fans wondering who would stop the reign.

Enter slugger Giovanni Segura. The charismatic California-based Mexican sensed Calderon was ready to be taken, and he made a calculated gamble in accepting short-end money to travel to Calderon's backyard for a unification bout. It paid off for Segura; though in the end, everybody who got to see the Fight of the Year candidate came out a winner.

The 28-year old used relentless pressure and a punishing body attack to gradually wear down Calderon and stop him in the eighth round, ending the Puerto Rican's long and distinguished run atop the junior flyweight class. "Iron Boy" did not go quietly. He was forced to maintain a hyper pace to outbox Segura, which he was able to do in the early rounds. The momentum shifted toward the younger challenger as soon as Calderon began to slow, though Calderon attempted to stand his ground and fought valiantly for several breathtaking rounds.

It wasn't enough, however, as the torch was finally passed to an exciting new champion whose style might not make for a long reign, but could make for a memorable one.



Ponce De Leon (right) en route to third-round kayo of Escalante

PHOTO BY NAOKI FUKUDA

Mexico, offered some decent bodywork in return, but he couldn't get out of the way of Ponce De Leon's left and lost the round in a one-sided fashion. According to CompuBox stats, Ponce De Leon outlanded Escalante, 28-5, in the opening round.

Escalante stepped up his aggression in the second round but was still on the receiving end of nearly every significant punch, eating one left after another as Ponce De Leon kept his technique unusually tight and had his way with the popular Texan. Escalante seemed like he might be getting something going when he split Ponce De Leon's guard with a right uppercut early in the third, but Ponce De Leon soon answered with a sweeping left to the chin.

Escalante, 24-3 (15), looked utterly lost in the ring against his hard-punching foe, and, late in the round, Escalante tried to open up and exchange power shots and paid the price. A good left connected and a brutal right hook followed immediately, putting Escalante on his back for the 10-count count from referee Tony Crebs (USA).

"He's a very experienced fighter," said the humble Escalante afterward. "He is powerful and strong. He deserved to win that fight."

"At the beginning," said Ponce De Leon, 40-2 (33), "I felt my timing was off, but I loosened up and got into my groove. I didn't feel his punch at all. I want to be a world champion again, so I want a world title fight next."

The win made Ponce De Leon a mandatory challenger for Juan Manuel Lopez, so he may get his wish for a title fight next—but it happens to be against a man who defeated him via destructive first-round knockout in 2008. Though Ponce De Leon seems to have polished his skills quite a bit since then, it still looks like an awfully difficult road to an alphabet belt.

Television: **Pay-Per-View**
Promoter: **Golden Boy Promotions**
(9-18-10)

Victor Ortiz KO 3 Vivian Harris

Los Angeles, California: On the Shane Mosley-Sergio Mora undercard, Ortiz continued his image rehabilitation in the wake of his June 2009 capitulation to Marcos Maidana as he rolled over a shot Harris and added a once-impressive name to his resume in the process.

The southpaw Ortiz, 142, Ventura, California, gave up 2" in height and reach to Harris, 142, Brooklyn, New York, via Guyana. Harris, 32, had been considered one of the most talented fighters in the sport until a surprising kayo loss to Carlos Maussa in June 2005. That setback began a rapid downward spiral. Harris had just four bouts in the three years prior to meeting Ortiz and was 1-2 with 1 no-contest during that span.

The 23-year-old Ortiz, 28-2-1 (22), who posted his fourth straight win since the Maidana setback, appeared wary of Harris' power in a stagnant opening round. The two spent most of the three minutes tapping gloves and attempting to get their respective lead foot to the outside. As the boos began from the crowd, referee Raul Caiz Sr. yelled, "Let's punch, guys." Harris, 29-6-1 (19), threw just 11 punches in the round while blocking all but seven of Ortiz' 40 shots, according to CompuBox.

Ortiz decided to take more chances in the second, and he quickly put Harris down with a double left hook to the

Ortiz floors Harris

PHOTO BY NAOKI FUKUDA

head just 20 seconds into the round. The former junior welterweight beltholder beat the count, but his legs were gone. "Vicious Victor" dropped "Vicious Vivian" again 30 seconds later with a hard right hook to the jaw. Harris again beat the count, only to fall for a third time 20 seconds later from a flurry of blows, none of which appeared to land cleanly. Harris beat the count once again, and Caiz correctly allowed him to continue. Still not seriously hurt, Harris managed to tag a charging Ortiz with a flush counter right hand, and Ortiz backed off for the remainder of the round.

Harris continued throwing the right hand, and he had Ortiz backing up very early in the third round. Pushing away from a clinch, though, Ortiz found just enough space to unleash a short right hook that got behind the glove of Harris and crashed into his jaw. Harris collapsed, and this time Caiz didn't bother to count. The time was 0:45 of the round.

Ortiz, who is rated first by two sanctioning bodies but unranked by THE RING, landed 28-of-91 shots, as opposed to just 9-of-49 for Harris. Ortiz said afterward that he wanted another shot at Maidana.

"I've learned quite a bit," Ortiz said. "It's been a whole year. I've progressed quite a bit. I've learned a lot, and I have Maidana to thank for that. But I still want you, brother, wherever you are."

Television: **Pay-Per-View**
Promoter: **Golden Boy Promotions**
(9-18-10)

Wladimir Klitschko KO 10 Samuel Peter

Frankfurt, Germany: More than 40,000 fawning fans of Klitschko, 247, Kiev, Ukraine, witnessed still another pulverizing performance by the 34-year-old world heavyweight champion at the Commerzbank Arena, where Peter, 241½, Las Vegas, Nevada, via Nigeria, suffered his second successive stoppage defeat by the increasingly impregnable brothers. Vitali's victory almost two years before proved so punishing for Peter that it was difficult to envisage any way back for the "Nigerian Nightmare," whose career as a contender surely came to an emphatic end at the hands of Wladimir.

When they first encountered one another in September 2005, it was all so different. Peter, then 25, was an unbeaten knockout specialist—only three of his 24 previous bouts had gone the distance. Klitschko was only two bouts removed from his implosion against Lamon Brewster in 2004, and the vulnerabilities he had betrayed in a subsequent bout against DaVarryl Williamson were made blatantly apparent when he felt the full, brutal force of Peter's power. The 6'6 ½" Ukrainian went down three times, yet he was able to draw on something deep that enabled him to overcome his paralyzing inadequacies. The "dead man walking" of heavyweight boxing—his own colorful description—became a fighter reborn, and today's holder of THE RING, IBF, and WBO belts is a more calm and assured ring presence. In fact, he is frighteningly formidable, even if the American TV networks regard his recitals as passé.

Peter was in better shape than when he appeared utterly submissive in a one-sided beating by Vitali in October 2008 before his corner retired him after eight rounds. The 30-year-old former WBC beltholder came out bobbing, weaving, and swinging. He looked dangerous, and a left hook that bounced off Klitschko's chin emphasized his threat, prompting the champion into an involuntary shuffle of his feet near the ropes. A deadly déjà vu or a desultory delusion? We would have our answer soon enough, for Klitschko's distress was short-lived.

In its place, there emerged a conviction borne of the success of straight one-two combinations that dissipated Peter's ambition and drove him into a shell, one that Klitschko kept hammering until it cracked open to leave an exposed and damaged fighter whose resistance was the final thing to fail him. Klitschko's jab set the tone of Peter's almost operatic ordeal, and his right hand, which thudded unerringly into his hurt head, provided merciless percussion. By the fourth round, the flesh around Peter's right eye was swelling ominously, and, over the course of the next few rounds, it closed almost to the point where he could barely see at all. When he fell into clinches, Klitschko leaned on him heavily and sapped his rapidly diminishing strength, but it was the methodical punching of the European giant that did most to chasten Peter.

The right crosses and left hooks that crashed into his head became progressively sickening, and Klitschko's right leads began to bounce off his unprotected chin too. Round after round followed the same unyielding rhythm until Peter's body and mind could take no more. Urged by his trainer, Emanuel Steward, Klitschko increased the bombardment of Peter in the 10th round, and a left hook that staggered the challenger heralded the climax. A big right to the jaw bent Peter in half, and a left uppercut straightened him for the final denouement, a right cross that put Peter, 34-4 (27), on his back. American referee Robert Byrd stepped in immediately and waved over the slaughter at the 1:22 mark, improving Klitschko's imposing

Klitschko was too much for Peter to handle

PHOTO BY PATRICK STOLLARZ/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

record to 55-3 (49) and giving him his second successful defense since winning THE RING championship in June 2009.

"I will take a break now, but I hope to have my next opponent lined up by the end of the year," said Klitschko, who was scheduled to box again December 11 with no opponent named before this issue went to press. David Haye, the WBA heavyweight beltholder who was scheduled to box fellow Brit Audley Harrison in November, was not far from his thoughts, however. "I am getting a little tired of the name David Haye. We have been talking about him a lot. He offended both the Klitschko brothers and not in a funny way. I don't think it is funny to show two decapitated bodies presented on a T-shirt, which he wore in a couple of press conferences. I believe David Haye talked himself into the top 10 of the heavyweight division, but he hasn't accomplished a lot. I hope he will stop talking garbage and follow through with his promises."

Klitschko's promise is being fulfilled with each successive bout.

Television: **ESPN Classic**
Promoter: **K2 Promotions**
(9-11-10)
Brian Doogan

Yuriorkis Gamboa W 12 Orlando Salido

Las Vegas, Nevada: Headlining an HBO-televised card at The Palms and setting up a future showdown with fellow beltholders Juan Manuel Lopez or Chris John, Cuban sensation Gamboa fought a less-careless, more-calculated fight against gutsy Salido in a title unification of sorts.

For the first half of the bout, Gamboa, 126, Miami, Florida, via Cuba, picked his spots, occasionally unleashing combinations on the forward-pressing Salido, 126, Ciudad Obregon, Mexico, then moving out of harm's way with ease. The cagey Salido, outclassed in speed and skill, continued to move forward, having better luck with the fifth and sixth rounds.

A fight broke out in the seventh, when the two traded early on, but Gamboa, still coming out ahead, resorted to boxing and moving to pick up yet another round.

Showing more aggression, Gamboa, 19-0 (15), started to overwhelm Salido, 34-11-2 (22), in the eighth when Gamboa was dropped to the canvas by a counter right hand. Gamboa complained that he'd slipped, but referee Joe Cortez (USA) ruled it a knockdown. Flash knockdown or slip, Gamboa was pushed by Salido, but he not only survived the round, he came back strong in the following frame.

Salido's chance had passed, for Gamboa finished the fight in dominating fashion. Salido's knees buckled in the 10th, and in the 11th, a clash of heads opened up a gash on the Mexican's forehead.

In the final and most dramatic round, Gamboa floored Salido with a big right-left hook combination. Though he beat the count, Salido was forced into survival mode until, against the ropes, he was dropped again with another blazing combination near the end of the round. Before Cortez could stop the action to administer a count, Gamboa landed a final shot on his downed opponent—losing a knockout in lieu of a two-point deduction for fouling.

Though coming close to a disqualification, Gamboa had more than enough rounds in the bank to soak up the foul. The scorecards of the three Las Vegas judges read 116-109 (Richard Houck), 114-109 (Robert Hoyle), and 115-109 (Paul Smith), all for Gamboa.

"Sometimes, you hit them, and they go down," Gamboa said. "Other times, they just stand there. He was a great fighter, and he just took it.

"It was a great fight for the fans, a great war in the ring, and one of my greatest fights."

Salido had actually lost his IBF featherweight belt before entering the ring with Gamboa by coming in two pounds heavier than the 10-pound maximum weight gain on the day

Gamboa cracks Salido with a left hook

PHOTO BY NAOKI FUKUDA

of the fight. If he'd defeated Gamboa, his IBF strap would've been declared vacant.

Gamboa now adds the IBF belt to his "regular" WBA featherweight trinket, though Chris John currently holds the "real" (or "super champion") version.

Television: **HBO**
Promoter: **Top Rank**
(9-11-10)
Chris Cozzone

Humberto Soto W 12 Fidel Monterrosa

Culiacan, Mexico: Despite being allowed to make another optional defense by the WBC, lightweight beltholder Humberto Soto made it look difficult in getting past the unheralded Monterrosa at Estadio Banorte.

The sloppy, foul-filled fight was Soto's second defense of the vacant belt he claimed in March when he earned a decision against David Diaz. As was the case with his May win against Ricardo Dominguez, this was considered an optional defense. It actually got off to a good start, with the two trading in the center of the ring in a close opening round that seemed to tilt toward the taller Monterrosa, 135, Galapa, Colombia, who landed the harder stuff.

Soto, 135, Tijuana, Mexico, switched up in the second round, when he stayed on the outside and outworked Monterrosa from a distance. He closed the round with a series of left hooks to the body, and, in the third, Monterrosa appeared to be slowing down. Soto, 53-7-2 (32), capitalized by moving forward and pressuring Monterrosa, 23-2 (18), who began to jab and counter. Soto landed much more frequently, however, as he began to time Monterrosa's counters with right hands thrown through the Colombian's porous defense.

Things got ugly from there as both fighters began fouling, clinching, and slipping on the ring-apron logos. Soto, 30, slowed down in the fifth, when his punches also began to lose their accuracy, save for an uppercut in the final minute of the round. Monterrosa, 22, was warned for a low blow in a sixth round that saw headbutts from Soto though Soto also had Monterrosa hurt late in the round with a right hand and several bodyshots. A busier Monterrosa recovered to take the seventh and eighth on work rate and accuracy though he seemed to have little left on his punches and he ate a shot from Sosa that came after the seventh-round bell.

The WBC's silly open scoring revealed that Monterrosa was even 76-76 on one card and down 80-72 and 77-75 on the others after eight rounds. Things got even more chippy in the ninth, when Monterrosa drew a warning from referee Laurentino Ramirez (Mexico) after both fighters fell out of the ring. He received another warning for a headbutt and was deducted a point for a headbutt-low blow combination.

Soto didn't fight with much urgency down the stretch. He spent most of the 10th slipping to the canvas. In the 11th, he nailed Monterrosa with a low blow that put the challenger on the floor and resulted in a timeout. The two clinched their way through the final round.

Nicolas Hidalgo (Venezuela) had it a ridiculous 118-109 for Soto, while Hernando Steidel (Puerto Rico) and John McKaie (USA) both had Soto winning by a more reasonable 115-112.

THE RING saw it 114-113 for Soto, who won his ninth straight since a June 2008 bout that saw Francisco Lorenzo badly embellish a Soto low blow into a disqualification victory. Rated third by THE RING at lightweight, Soto could be headed toward a date with Marco Antonio Barrera. Monterrosa, meanwhile, fell to 0-2 in fights outside his native country.

Television: **Fox Sports Net/ Fox Sports en Español**
Promoter: **Top Rank**
(9-18-10)

Felix Sturm W 12 Giovanni Lorenzo

Cologne, Germany: Still flashing the jab that once gave Oscar De La Hoya fits, WBA middleweight titlist Sturm won a 12-round unanimous decision against Lorenzo at Lanxess Arena.

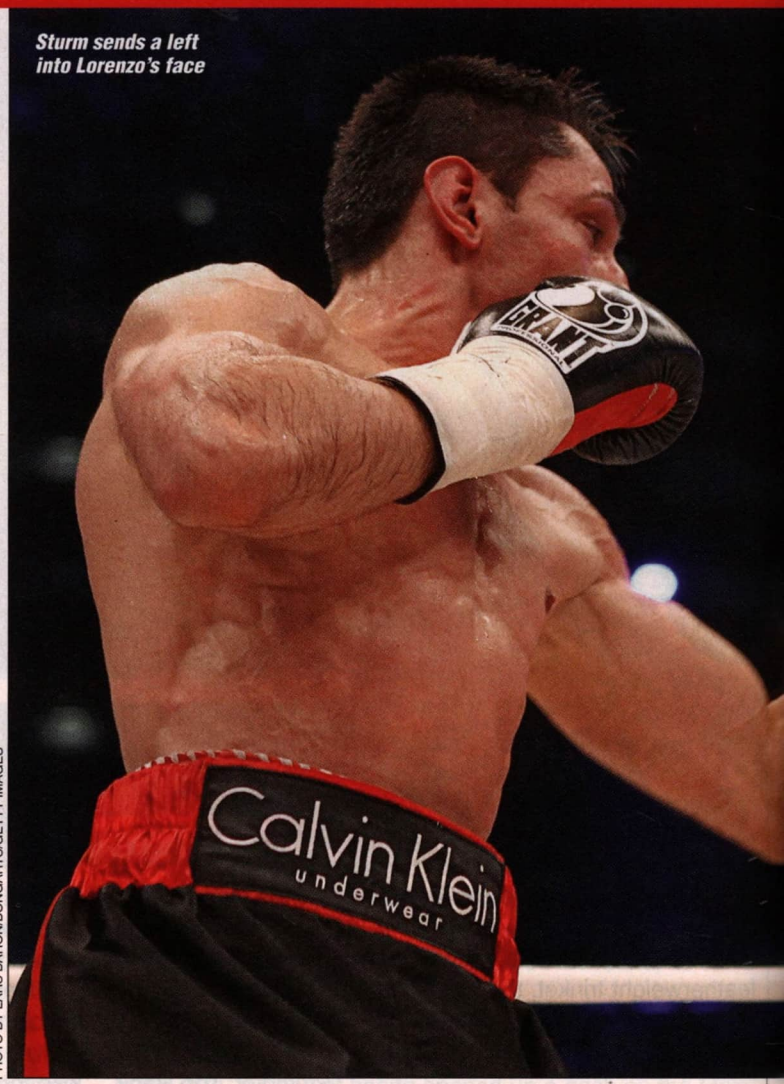
Sturm, 159, Cologne, Germany, was making his first ring appearance in 14 months. In that time, he had split from former promoter Universum, started his own company, Sturm Box-Promotion, and aligned himself with veteran trainer Fritz Sdunek.

The debut bout in this new phase of Sturm's career was a financial hit, drawing 18,712 customers to the Lanxess Arena and another five million viewers watching on German television. It was also an artistic success, with Sturm showing the great ring generalship we've grown to expect from him. "He could have used his right hand more often," Sdunek said of Sturm, "but sometimes you can't force things to happen."

For Sturm, it was his eighth defense of the belt he had won by outpointing Javier Castillejo in their April 2007 rematch. "I can do a lot more," the 31-year-old Sturm told the press after the bout. "I was just at 75 percent. There was a lot of pressure on me, but I will get better from fight to fight." Sturm also admitted to being more nervous than usual going into the bout, but he soon settled down to outbox Lorenzo.

The challenger started out strong, attempting to rough up Sturm in the opening round, but, by round three, Sturm was steadily pumping his left into Lorenzo's face. Lorenzo continued throwing punches, but his activity level varied throughout the bout and his efforts rarely broke through Sturm's guard. By the seventh round, Lorenzo seemed to be sputtering, which allowed Sturm to grow more confident and pile up the points. At times, Sturm threw pinpoint combinations to Lorenzo's body and head, impressing ringsiders with his hand speed. Lorenzo, 158¼, New York, New York, by way of the Dominican Republic, staged a desperation rally in the 12th, but Sturm was fresher and remained in control.

The punch stats showed the difference between the two, with Sturm landing 249 of 478 punches, while Lorenzo landed a mere 105 of 639. Judges David Singh (Panama) and Stanley Christodoulou (South Africa) scored the bout 117-111, while Stefano Carozza (Italy) saw the bout at 118-111, all for Sturm.



Sturm sends a left into Lorenzo's face

PHOTO BY LARS BARON/BONGARTS/GETTY IMAGES

Lorenzo, 29-3 (21), was unhappy with the verdict, comparing the scoring to that of amateur boxing. "Did they even count my body punches? I was more active. He is a great champion, and I thank him for this opportunity. But I believe I won the fight and should be in possession of the WBA belt," said Lorenzo.

Sturm, 34-2-1 (14), hopes to defend his belt again by December. "It's tough to find a great opponent," said Sturm, ranked first at middleweight by THE RING. "Not too many of them want to step into the ring with me. But we promised to take on big challenges, and we will deliver."

The referee was Luis Pabon (Puer-to Rico).

Promoter: **Sturm Box-Promotion**
(9-4-10)

Steve Molitor W 12 Jason Booth

Houghton-le-Spring, England: Although he started strongly and battled bravely throughout, British and Commonwealth titleholder Booth, 121, Nottingham, England, encountered a more experienced and accomplished adversary in Molitor, 122, Mississuaga, Canada, who retained his IBF junior featherweight belt at Rainton Meadows Arena by majority

decision. The disappointment felt by the local lad was palpable, but his performance was redemptive all the same.

A recovering alcoholic, Booth's triumph was just to reach this level and challenge for a title belt. "If I hadn't had boxing, I'd be dead. The drink would have beaten me," Booth, 35-6 (15), acknowledged before the fight. "I've got my kids now. They're my focus, and I think I've just grown up." Molitor, alas, was just a bit too savvy and a bit too good, though Booth performed admirably throughout.

The rhythm was more cagey than relentless for the most part with both fighters displaying a conspicuous level of respect for the other. Booth feinted and ambushed the belt-holder in the opening round with sharp one-twos, and his jab worked well. Molitor appeared hesitant by comparison, and his left eyebrow was cut in the third round, further complicating his stuttering start.

It was round five before Molitor became assertive, doubling up on his southpaw jab and countering well when he drew Booth into his carefully laid traps. The greater accuracy in his punching began to make a telling difference, with much of Booth's energy wasted by missing or having his blows blocked. In the eighth round, the challenger got caught against the ropes and paid the price, as he did again in the 10th as Molitor's confidence soared. He bossed the exchanges in the penultimate round, but Booth rallied strongly in the last to leave the result in doubt.

Alfred Asaro (France) scored 116-112 and England's Marcus McDonnell 116-113, both for Molitor, 33-1 (12). Pasquale Procopio (Canada) was unable to separate them at 114-114. THE RING scored 115-113 for Molitor. It was the first successful defense for the southpaw, who posted his fifth straight win since a November 2008 kayo loss to Celestino Caballero. THE RING rates Molitor third at 122 pounds.

Promoter: Frank Maloney
(9-11-10)
Brian Doogan

Ricky Burns W 12 Roman Martinez

Glasgow, Scotland: Burns pulled off one of the British upsets of the year by winning a unanimous decision against the previously unbeaten "Rocky" Martinez and lifting the WBO junior lightweight belt at Kelvin Hall.

The heavily tattooed Commonwealth champion was considered a no-hoper, and there were questions raised about why he got a title shot. After all, he'd twice taken sound beatings (from Alex Arthur in 2006 and Carl Johanneson in 2007) and, although he'd won 13 straight, he'd never beaten anyone close to world class. In his previous bout, Burns had labored to outpoint Youssef Al Hamidi, who had just six wins in 34 career bouts.

Martinez, 24-1-1 (15), won the belt by stopping Britain's Nicky Cook in 2009 and had two successful defenses. Late in the opening round, it looked as if the bout would follow a predictable course when the 5'8" Martinez, 128¾, dropped the 5'10" Burns, 129¾, with a right cross.

The 27-year-old Burns, Coatbridge, Scotland, began the second with vigor, using his jab effectively, although he had to absorb a few crunching bodyblows. By the third, Burns was fully into his stride, mainly boxing off the back foot, but now and then digging in with hard bodyblows, uppercuts, and some effective infighting.

Burns is neither the quickest boxer nor a particularly hard puncher, and he is rather too upright for comfort. But he has good footwork, an accurate jab, and an impressive variety of punches, a big heart, and the work rate that comes from long hours in the gym. He's also huge for a junior lightweight; he looked at least a division bigger than Martinez.

But the crude Martinez, Vega Baja, Puerto Rico, had one advantage in that he could hurt Burns every time he landed. At the end of the third, he wobbled the Scot with an overhand right, but, in the fourth, it was all Burns as he raked the WBO titlist with combinations. Burns kept it up in the fifth when he hurt Martinez with one particularly spiteful left hook.

Martinez, 27, came close to stopping Burns in the seventh as he shook him badly and then blasted away. For the most part, Burns outlanded Martinez the rest of the way although the visitor was always dangerous and on several occasions hurt his challenger. For example, in round 10, a Burns right hook

prompted a stumble from Rocky, only for Martinez to bounce back with a vicious uppercut that wobbled the crowd favorite.

Burns controlled the 11th, and, by the 12th, Martinez, who looked in less-than-peak shape, was too tired to land anything more than a desperate low blow.

Judges Paul Thomas (England) and Zoltan Enyedi (Hungary) both scored it 115-112 (as did THE RING), while Don Trella (USA) made it 115-113. The referee was Mike Ortega (USA).

Promoter: **Frank Warren**

(9-4-10)

Gavin Evans

Luis Lazarte W 12 Nerys Espinoza

Buenos Aires, Argentina: In his first defense of the IBF junior flyweight belt he won by outpointing Carlos Tamara in May, Lazarte defeated the Nicaraguan Espinoza by unanimous decision. More than 1,500 people, mostly workers of the Truck Drivers Union of Argentina, were on hand for the bout, which was held at Club Once Unidos of Mar del Plata City. They were there to support the 39-year-old Lazarte, a street cleaner for the city who also belongs to the union.

With the crowd banging drums and making tremendous noise to support him, Lazarte waged a street fight with Espinoza. There were several fouls from both fighters (but more infractions from the beltholder), including: low blows, kidney punches, headbutts, and pushes, as well as several clinches.

Lazarte, nicknamed "El Mosquito," 48-9-1 (18) with 1 no-contest, presented difficulties, as usual, with his freakish 5'11" height. The 5'6" Espinoza, 29-6-1 (20), with 2 no-contests, tried from the beginning to overcome his height disadvantage with jabs and straight punches, but Lazarte lured him into a toe-to-toe fight. Espinoza, 29, who was making his third try at a title belt, opened a small cut on Lazarte's forehead in the second round.

Lazarte, 106, Buenos Aires, Argentina, was in great condition as always. He took control of the bout early, pushing and throwing wide-open right hand swings. In the eighth, Espinoza, 107, Managua, Nicaragua, looked not only tired but also confused. Lazarte took note of the situation and increased his domination of the action until the last bell. Referee Samuel Viruet (USA) stepped back and allowed both men plenty of liberties with the rules, but, in the 12th round, he finally deducted one point from Espinoza's tally for hitting on the break.

The three judges each had the same scores: Alexander Levin (USA), Ric Bays (USA), and Nelson Vasquez (Puerto Rico) all scored it 116-111 for Lazarte. THE RING saw it 117-110 for Lazarte, who might be headed toward a mandatory defense against Mexico's Ulises "Archie" Solis at Mar del Plata before year's end. Lazarte is rated fifth by THE RING.

"I apologize. The fight was not good," Lazarte told his fans. "I am not satisfied with my performance tonight, and I promise to show you a better boxing exhibition in the future."

Promoter: **Osvaldo Rivero**

(9-4-10)

Carlos Irusta

PHOTO COURTESY OF CARLOS IRUSTA

Lazarte addresses his fans after beating Espinoza

Marcos Maidana W 12 Demarcus Corley

Buenos Aires, Argentina: In front of 11,000 people at Luna Park Stadium, "Chino" Maidana, 138¾, outpointed "Chop Chop" Corley, 138, to retain the WBA "interim" junior welterweight belt. The "regular" champion is Amir Khan, who is scheduled to face Maidana on December 11.

It was Maidana's third defense of the trinket he won by stopping Victor Ortiz last June and his first defense at Luna Park. It was a difficult night for Maidana, Santa Fe, Argentina, but the scores were unanimous for him: Anibal Andrade (Uruguay) had it 115-112, while Enrique Portocarrero (Nica-

Referee Julio Alvarado raises Maidana's arms following Corley bout

PHOTO COURTESY OF CARLOS IRUSTA

ragua) and Victor Simmons (Panama) each scored it 117-110, all in favor of Maidana. THE RING scorecard was 117-111 for Chino. Several journalists at ringside had it much closer, however, with Maidana ahead by only one or two points.

The bout was closer in the ring than on the scorecards. The 36-year-old Corley, Washington, DC, a southpaw with plenty of experience, took advantage of the technical deficiencies of Maidana, who, at 27, builds all his performances on his tremendous kayo power.

Moving all over the ring, Corley created a lot of problems for Maidana, who was the aggressor throughout. In the second, Maidana absorbed a headbutt that opened a cut on his left eyelid. Veteran cutman Miguel Diaz did a brilliant job stemming the flow.

In the seventh, Maidana, 29-1 (27), connected a right to the chin, and Corley, 37-14-1 (22), was floored but beat the count and managed to recover. When the eighth round started, the stadium was cheering on Maidana in hopes of seeing a kayo victory, but the crowd's efforts proved futile. Maidana looked tired and sluggish. Corley, with all his experience to guide him, survived until the final bell sounded.

Maidana connected with several rabbit punches, but referee Julio Alvarado (Panama) didn't penalize him.

"I don't know what happened, but I felt very tired," said Maidana, who is also trained by Diaz.

"He was not in his best shape," Diaz said, "but it was a tremendous fight for him. Maidana gained a lot of experience for the next bout."

Osvaldo Rivero, who manages Omar Narváez, Luis Lazarte, and Juan Carlos Reveco, among others, organized the bout. Maidana ended his commercial relationship with Mario Margossian about a month ago. He now is co-promoted by Golden Boy Promotions and Universum and is advised by Sebastian Contursi.

Promoter: **Osvaldo Rivero**
(8-28-10)
Carlos Irusta

Mzonke Fana W 12 Cassius Baloyi

Brakpan, South Africa: The 36-year-old Fana might be nearing the end of his career, but it didn't appear that way at the Carnival City Casino, where "Vinnige Fana" (Fast Fana) dominated the 35-year-old Baloyi to regain the IBF junior lightweight belt, avenging a 2008 loss and solidifying his spot atop THE RING 135-pound ratings.

Fana, 129¾, Cape Town, South Africa, gave away three inches of height and five inches of reach to the 5'10" Baloyi, 129½, Johannesburg, South Africa. He made those deficits a non-factor with his aggression, hand speed, and volume punching, which left Baloyi constantly on his heels and unable to find a rhythm.

The bout was for the vacant IBF strap that Robert Guerrero abandoned to move up to 135 pounds in February. Fana had earned a split decision against countryman Malcolm Klassen in April 2007 for the same belt, which he defended once before losing to Baloyi a year later via majority decision. Baloyi also

went on to defend once before being knocked out by Klassen a year later.

Aggressive from the opening bell, Fana, 30-4 (12), constantly backed Baloyi, 37-5-1 (19), into the ropes, where he pelted him with uppercuts and hooks to the body and head. Fana had the right eye of "The Hitman" closing by the end of the second round.

"I couldn't see out of my right eye," Baloyi told the Associated Press. "I was just surviving from the second round. I just didn't have any power today. I don't know what happened."

Baloyi walked to the wrong corner at the end of the sixth. Fana rocked him again with three uppercuts in the seventh and had Baloyi holding on at the end of the eighth. Fana continued his relentless attack but didn't quite have the power to finish the job. Vinnige was there to be hit, and Baloyi tagged him cleanly on a frequent basis, but The Hitman's power was non-existent by the later rounds when it was clear he needed a knockout to win. Overwhelmed, Baloyi was reduced to throwing mostly single left hands in the final two rounds.

The verdict was obvious. All three South African judges had it clearly for Fana: Neville Hotz 119-109, Alf Buqwana 118-110, and Isaac Tshabalala 119-110. The referee was Deon Dwarte (South Africa).

Promoter: **Branco Sports Productions**
(9-1-10)

Moruti Mthalane KO 5 Zolani Tete

Brakpan, South Africa: Mthalane used power and veteran poise to overcome the taller, younger southpaw Tete in an all-South African flyweight clash on the Mzonke Fana-Cassius Baloyi undercard at Carnival City Casino.

For the 27-year-old Mthalane, who is ranked seventh by THE RING, it was the first defense of the vacant IBF flyweight belt he won by beating Julio Cesar Miranda in November 2009. It was also his third-straight win since being stopped by Nonito Donaire in a failed bid at the same belt in November 2008.

The southpaw Tete, 111¾, Mdantsane, South Africa, who was ranked eighth by THE RING going into the fight, had his moments early, when he was effective in utilizing his height and reach advantages to keep Mthalane, 111¾, Johannesburg, South Africa, at a distance in the first three rounds. "Babyface" Mthalane, 26-2 (17), was bleeding from his nose in the second.

But Mthalane began to enforce his will in the closing seconds of the third, when he buckled the knees of Tete, 13-1 (11), and sent him into the ropes with a right hand. He continued to close the distance in the fourth when his punches began finding their mark. Jumping right on Tete to start the fifth, Mthalane dropped the southpaw with a one-two in a corner during the opening minute of the round.

Tete beat the count but was promptly floored again as Mthalane flurried with a series of wild hooks. Tete rose from his knees, but, when action resumed, Mthalane drove him back into the ropes and teed off until referee Tonio Tiberi (Luxembourg) rescued the helpless Tete at the 2:27 mark.

"I prepared very well for this fight, but what happened to me happens to any boxer," the 22-year-old Tete told *The Daily Dispatch* of East London, South Africa. "The strategy was to keep Mthalane away, and I tried to do that. But unfortunately he caught me with a good punch, which took a lot out of me. I'm still young and will continue with my boxing and do well in the future."

Promoter: **Branco Sports Productions**
(9-1-10)

Marco Huck KO 5 Matt Godfrey

Erfurt, Germany: WBO cruiserweight beltholder Huck scored a convincing fifth-round stoppage of Godfrey at Messehalle, dropping him three times before the fight was halted at the 2:18 mark.

In what was perhaps the finest performance of his career, 25-year-old Huck, 198½, Bielefeld, Germany, via Serbia, overwhelmed Godfrey from the beginning, sending him to the canvas in the second round and twice more in the fifth.

"I was really throwing good, accurate punches tonight, but I did get excited," Huck said. "He was brave to keep on getting up and trying. When my right hand lands clean, there's nothing anybody can do."

Indeed, Godfrey, 198¾, Providence, Rhode Island, couldn't do anything to stop the hard-throwing Huck.

"He is very strong and has a lot of power," said Godfrey, 20-2 (10). "He fires so many punches from very awkward angles. I should have moved more after avoiding the first punches, but my mistake was that I just stood in front of him. He is very powerful."

The beginning of the end came for Godfrey early in the fifth, when Huck connected with a flush right cross. Godfrey went down to his hands and knees, but managed to rise and continue. An assortment of punches from Huck caused Godfrey to fall again, this time through the ropes and onto the ring apron. Godfrey showed his gameness by rising a second time, but Huck was immediately on top of him. Huck brought the fight to its conclusion with an unanswered series of power shots that left Godfrey stooped and defenseless until American referee Genaro Rodriguez stepped in.

Messehalle was filled (reports varied on attendance, the original number was 3,300 and then changed to 4,500), and the customers howled with Huck's every assault. The Serbian has been embraced by his German followers, thanks largely to promoter Wilfried Sauerland's consistent booking of Huck in small halls around the country. With recent stops in Oldenburg, Prenzlauer Berg, Baden-Wurttemberg, and now Erfurt, Huck has embarked on the equivalent of a grassroots, barnstorming tour. The results have been positive, with Huck, 30-1 (23), leaving a trail of defeated cruiserweights behind. Since losing to Steve Cunningham in 2007, Huck has won 11 in a row.

After the bout, Sauerland announced his hopes for a six-man cruiserweight tournament featuring Huck. It's hard to say if the cruiserweights can capture the imagination of boxing fans the way Showtime's Super Six super middleweights have, but, with Huck involved, there is at least the potential for some excitement.

Promoter: **Sauerland Event**
(8-21-10)

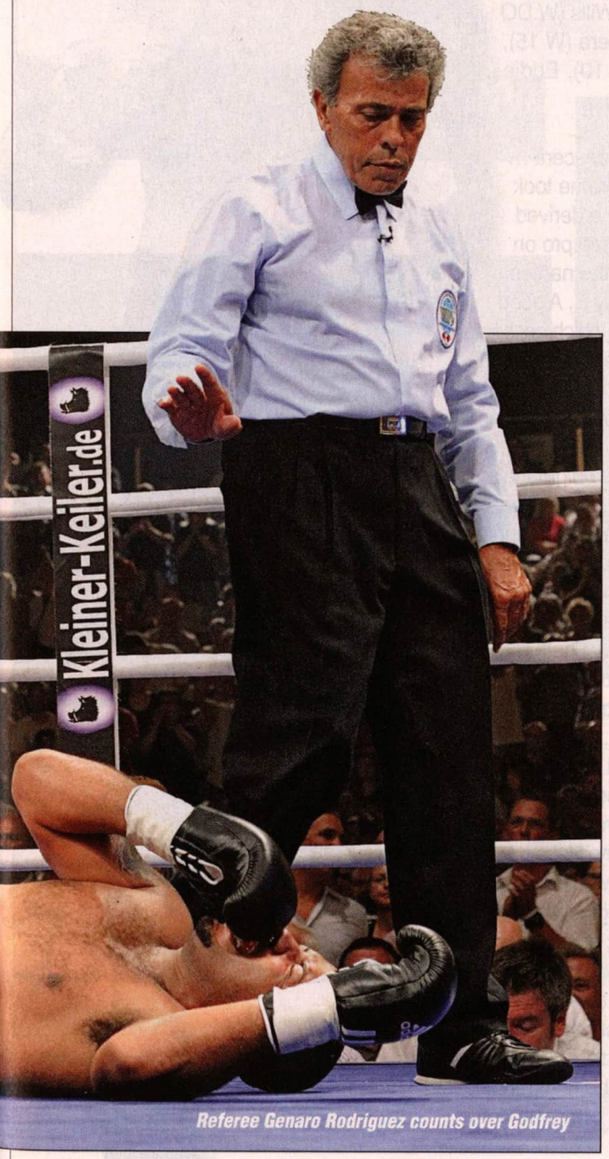


PHOTO BY DAGMAR KIELHORN/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Referee Genaro Rodriguez counts over Godfrey

Omar Nino KO 7 Ronald Barrera

Guadalajara, Mexico: WBC junior flyweight titlist Nino, 108, Guadalajara, Mexico, had an easy time with Barrera, 108, Barranquilla, Colombia, dominating him from the opening bell and causing the Colombian to quit on his stool prior to the seventh round at the Coliseo Olimpico.

Barrera offered no resistance at all during rounds five and six as Nino landed bodyshots and combinations at will. That Barrera chose to quit was not a surprise based on his lack of aggression.

The first two rounds had been all Nino, as he fired jabs and controlled the action, while Barrera was content to stay behind his upraised guard, unable or unwilling to mix it up. The challenger made a bit of an effort in the third, but Nino was able to counter with ease. Nino opened things up in the fourth, landing several clean shots to Barrera's face and backing him up with solid right hands.

At times, it appeared the Colombian was hurt by Nino's punches; at others, it seemed he simply didn't have much fight in him. Despite exhortations from his corner, Barrera allowed Nino to use him as target practice during the next two rounds before retiring after the sixth.

Nino, known as "Giant Killer," didn't have a giant to contend with on this particular night, but he showed the skills that have earned him wins against such good little men as Brian Viloria and Rodel Mayol. He has a second place ranking behind THE RING's new junior flyweight champion Giovanni Segura and ex-champ Ivan Calderon. A bout between the scrappy Nino and the slugging Segura would be one of the best fights made at the lighter weights.

The win against Barrera was Nino's second consecutive title defense and brings his record to 30-3-2 (12). Barrera, 27-8-2 (17), has lost three of his last five starts, all by stoppage.

The referee was Len Koivisto (Canada).

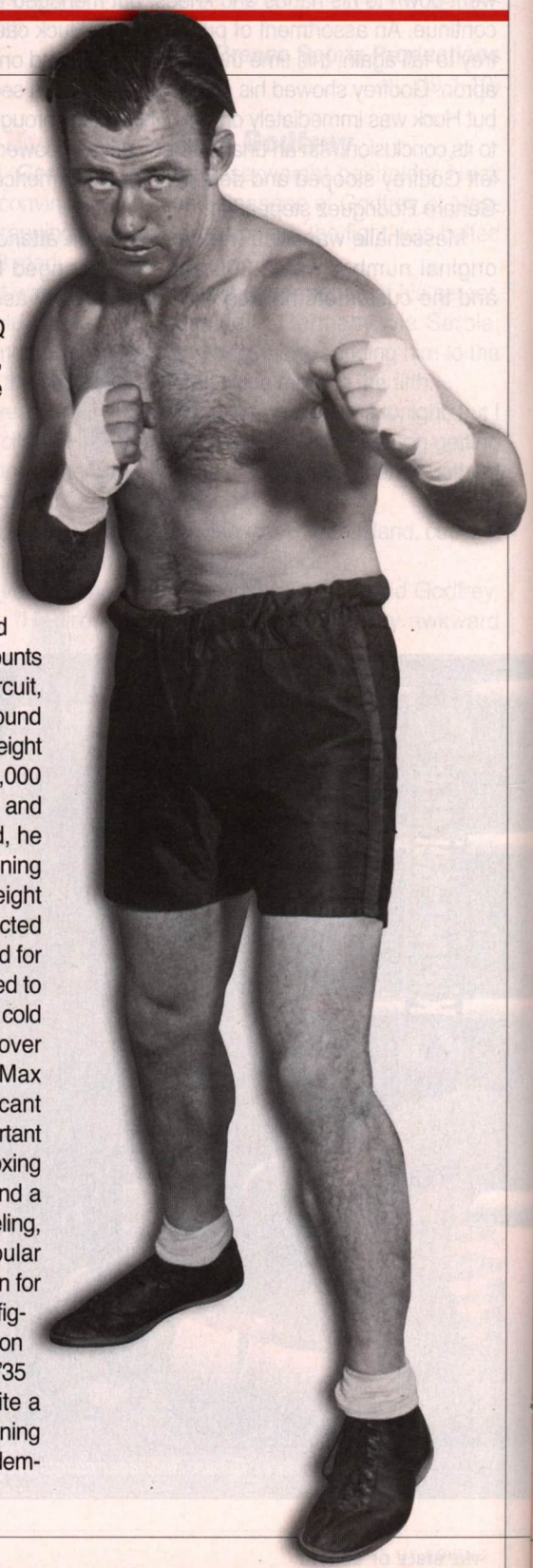
Television: **Fox Sports en Español**
Promoters: **Hector Garcia, HG Boxing, Fernando Beltran, Zanfer Promotions, Top Rank**
(9-4-10) ■

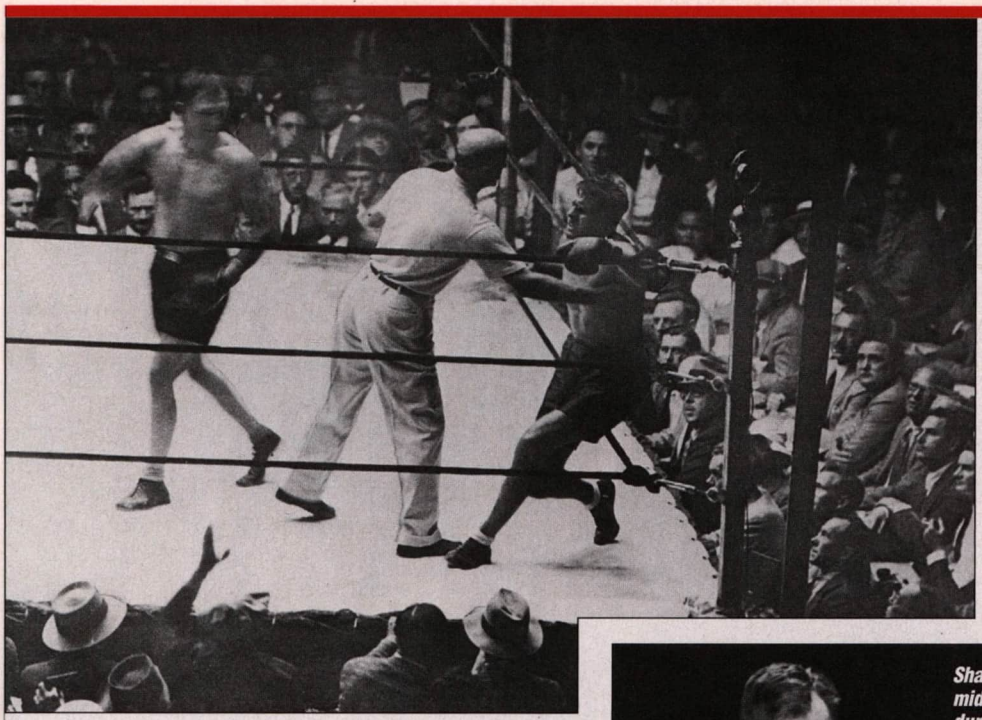
Hall of Fame Profile

THE RING features a thumbnail biography of a ring great who has received the ultimate honor: induction into the International Boxing Hall of Fame in Canastota, New York

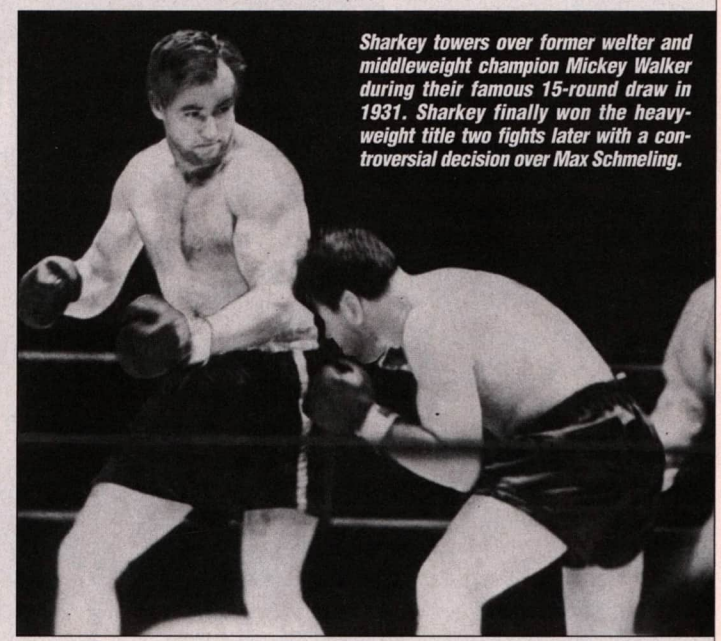
Jack Sharkey

Birthdate: October 26, 1902
Birthplace: Binghamton, New York
Date of Death: August 17, 1994
Nickname: The Boston Gob
Weight Class: Heavyweight
Record: 38-13-3 (14) and 1 no-decision
Title Held: World Heavyweight
Best Performances: Tommy Loughran (KO 3), Harry Wills (W DQ 13), Young Stribling (W 10), Mike McTigue (KO 12), Primo Carnera (W 15), George Godfrey (W 10), Phil Scott (KO 3), Jack Renault (W 10), Eddie Huffman (W 10), Max Schmeling (W 15, L DQ 4)
Year of IBHOF Induction: 1994
Background: Born Joseph Paul Zukauskas of Lithuanian descent … Moved to Boston as a young man and enlisted in the Navy, where he took up boxing and became champion of the Atlantic Fleet … Nickname derived from his naval service. "Gob" is old-time slang for "sailor" … Turned pro on January 29, 1924, under the name of Jack Sharkey, combining the names of his two boxing heroes: "Sailor" Tom Sharkey and Jack Dempsey … A good technical boxer and hard puncher, but suffered from hand injuries, which accounts for his low kayo percentage … After more than two years on the Boston circuit, made his Madison Square Garden debut in February 1926, winning a 10-round decision over Eddie Huffman … Became a leading contender for the heavyweight title by beating the dangerous and much-avoided Harry Wills in front of 42,000 fans at Ebbets Field … Went on from there to be one of the most enigmatic and controversial heavyweight champions of all-time: Tough, brave, and skilled, he became better known for his losses than his victories … Thirteen-bout winning streak ended when he was knocked out by comebacking former heavyweight champion Jack Dempsey at Yankee Stadium in July '27, a fight that attracted approximately 70,000 fans and a gate of $1.6-million, which set a new record for a non-title bout. Hurt Dempsey early and was still fighting well when he turned to the referee to complain that Dempsey was hitting him low, only to be knocked cold by a left hook that he didn't see coming … Rebounded with quality wins over future Hall of Famers Tommy Loughran and Young Stribling … Lost to Max Schmeling via fourth-round disqualification in June 1930 bout for the vacant heavyweight championship. Due to the controversial ending of such an important fight, the use of foul-proof protective cups became widespread throughout boxing … A draw with former welter and middleweight champion Mickey Walker and a 15-round decision over Primo Carnera led to a June '32 rematch with Schmeling, in which the former sailor finally won the championship via highly unpopular 15-round, split decision … Lost title to Carnera in his first defense, going down for the count in the sixth round. As Carnera was controlled by organized crime figures, fans and many media members believed the fight was fixed, an accusation the ex-champ vehemently denied … Retired in '33, but made a comeback in '35 that ended when Joe Louis knocked him out inside three rounds … Despite a career filled with controversy, he remained popular after quitting the ring, running a bar, refereeing, and making appearances at sportsmen shows, where he demonstrated his world-class skills as a fly fisherman.

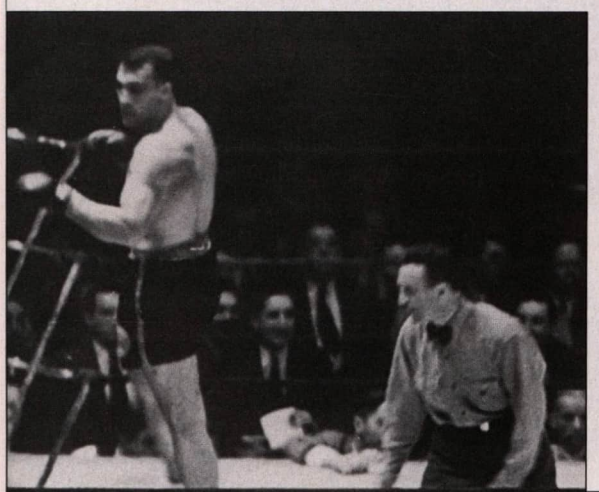


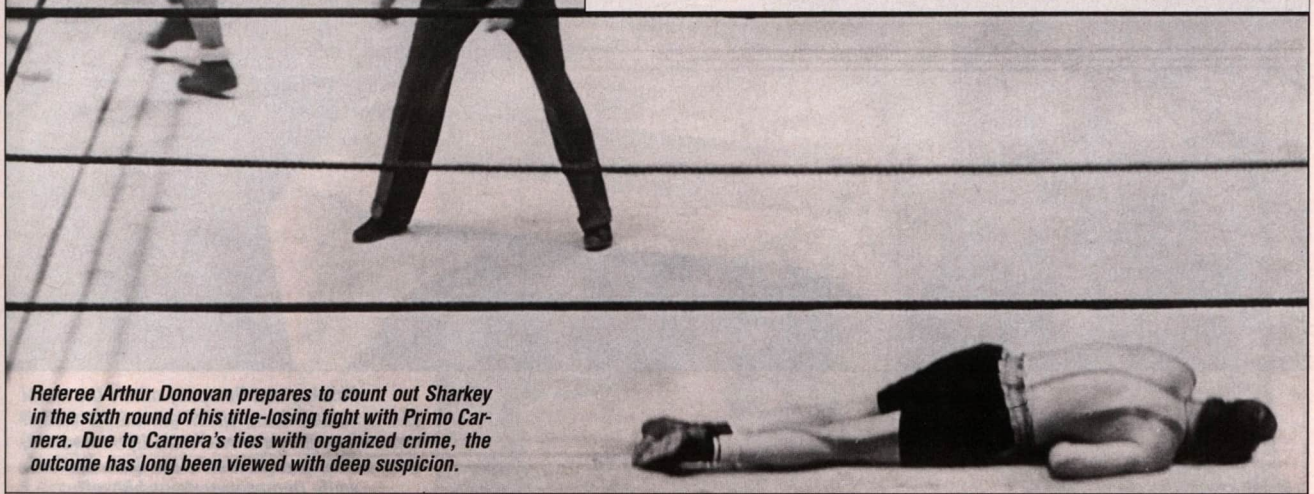


Sharkey walks away from Phil Scott, who is trying to convince referee Lou Magnolia that he's been fouled during the 1930 bout held in Miami, Florida. Magnolia wasn't buying it, and Sharkey won via third-round TKO.



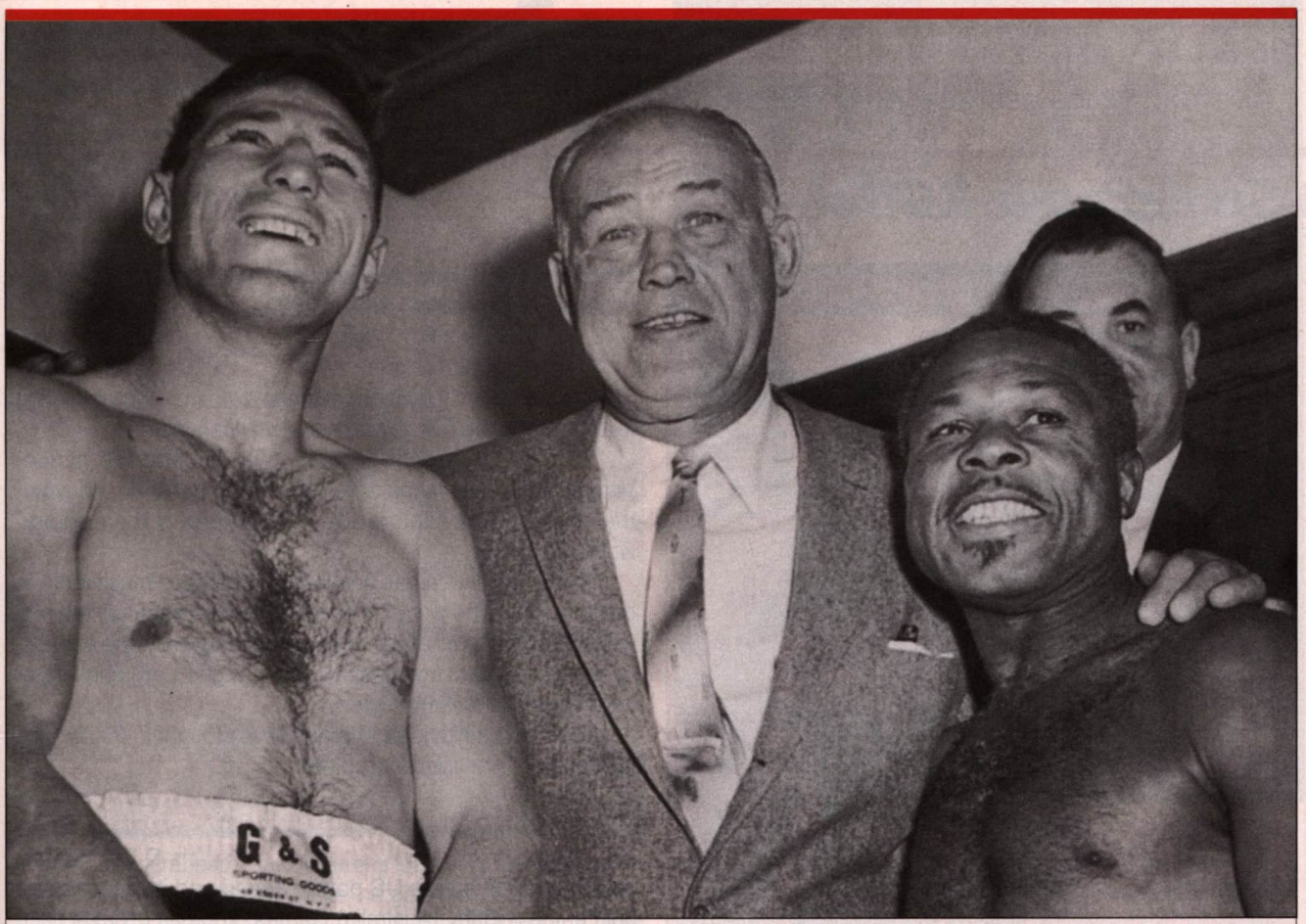
Sharkey towers over former welter and middleweight champion Mickey Walker during their famous 15-round draw in 1931. Sharkey finally won the heavyweight title two fights later with a controversial decision over Max Schmeling.





Referee Arthur Donovan prepares to count out Sharkey in the sixth round of his title-losing fight with Primo Carnera. Due to Carnera's ties with organized crime, the outcome has long been viewed with deep suspicion.

Sharkey and Dempsey mimic the mural behind them, which graced the wall at Dempsey's New York City restaurant. Sharkey stands in for Jess Willard, while Dempsey portrays himself.



Challenger Yvon Durelle and light heavyweight champion Archie Moore flank Sharkey at the weigh-in for their legendary 1958 brawl in Montreal. Sharkey was the third man in the ring that night for the epic encounter.

Baseball legend Ted Williams shares a laugh with Sharkey in 1970. Both were expert fly-casters and were appearing at the New England Sportsmen's & Camping Show in Boston.

THE RING Flashback

Through the years with "The Bible of Boxing"

September 2000

COVER STORY: "A New Look At Lennox Lewis: Is He An All-Time Great?" by Nigel Collins came in the wake of Lewis' second-round destruction of previously undefeated Michael Grant in front of 17,324 fans at Madison Square Garden, a much more exciting performance than his two previous outings, a draw and a decision win against aging Evander Holyfield.

"The knock on Lewis has always been aesthetical rather than pragmatic," writes Collins. "People mistake his laid-back attitude for a lack of passion, confuse caution with cowardice, and withheld their support in the hope that someone more to their liking would come along and wipe the condescending smirk off his face. But except for his second-round knockout loss to Oliver McCall way back in September '94, Lewis has remained unbeaten, slowly forcing most of his detractors to begrudgingly admit that he is, after all, a damned good fighter, maybe even a great one."

Lewis went on to win five of his six remaining fights, which included losing and regaining the heavyweight title in a pair of bouts with Hasim Rahman in 2001. Lewis retired in 2003 while still the reigning world champion and was elected to the International Boxing Hall of Fame in 2009.

"Why Do Oscar And Fernando Hate Each Other?" by Ivan Goldman examines the simmering feud between the pair of Mexican-American stars.

"To compare [Oscar] De La Hoya, 27, and [Fernando] Vargas, 22, in any meaningful way, one must search beyond the obvious and explore the very nature of their souls," writes Goldman.

It turns out that Vargas and De La Hoya have much more in common than one would think, considering all the unflattering things they had said about one another. Basically, the animosity appears to stem from jealously (on Vargas' part) and lack of respect (on De la Hoya's part).

When De La Hoya and Vargas finally fought in 2002, "The Golden Boy" prevailed via 11th-round TKO.

"The 2000 US Olympic Team: Well-Prepared For A Gold Rush" is D.E. Thomas' scouting report on the US boxing squad and its chances for gold at the Sydney (Australia) Games. Thomas reviews each team member's strengths and weaknesses and assesses their chance to medal. Head coach Tom Mustin had high hopes for Team USA, but things turned sour once the Games began. The American squad only managed to win four medals, two silver medals (Ricardo Juarez and Ricardo Williams) and two bronze medals (Jermain Taylor and Clarence Vinson).

"The Sad Decline Of Michael Moorer" by Johnnie Whitehead looks at the plight of the former heavyweight champion, who threatened to commit suicide in April 2000.

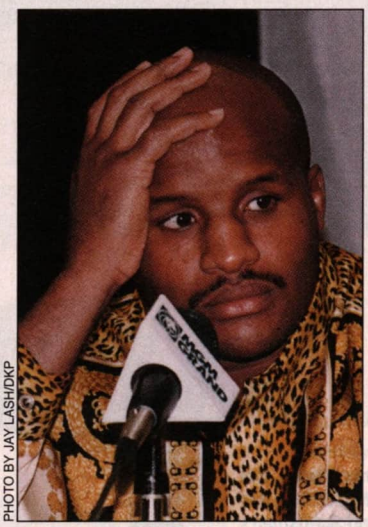


PHOTO BY JAY LASH/DKP

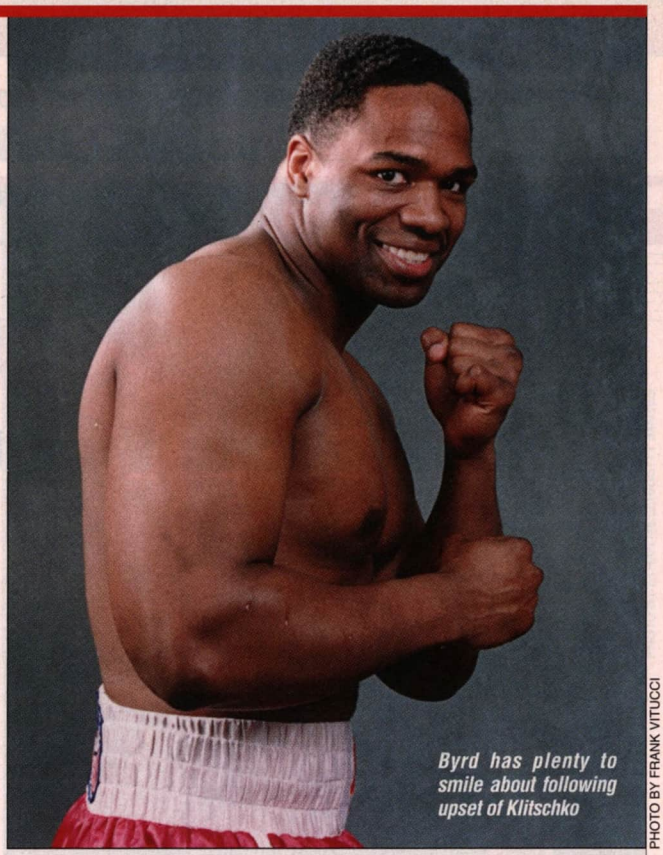
Moorer was often in a morose mood

Police responded to a report of a gunshot at Moorer's home in Boca Raton, Florida, where the fighter's live-in girlfriend told them Moorer had placed a gun to his head and said, "I'm gonna die tonight!" Thankfully, Moorer, who had been drinking, just fired the gun into the air instead of at himself. He was taken into custody and then to a mental health center for evaluation.

World Champions

(THE RING did not have a championship policy in 2000, so the fighters listed below in each weight division are THE RING's number-one contenders for the period ended May 21, 2000.)

Heavyweight: Lennox Lewis
Cruiserweight: Juan Carlos Gomez
Light Heavyweight: Roy Jones
Super Middleweight: Sven Ottke
Middleweight: Bernard Hopkins
Junior Middleweight: Felix Trinidad
Welterweight: Oscar De La Hoya
Junior Welterweight: Kostya Tszyu
Lightweight: Steve Johnston
Junior Lightweight: Floyd Mayweather
Featherweight: Naseem Hamed
Junior Featherweight: Marco Antonio Barrera
Bantamweight: Tim Austin
Junior Bantamweight: Mark Johnson
Flyweight: Sornpichai Singwangcha
Junior Flyweight: Ricardo Lopez
Strawweight: Zolani Petelo



Byrd has plenty to smile about following upset of Klitschko

PHOTO BY FRANK VITUCCI

"I'm not surprised," said Moorer's long-time manager, John Davimos. "When Michael drinks, he gets himself in trouble."

Moorer made a comeback in November 2000 and went 13-2-1 (9) in his final 16 bouts, but never accomplished enough to earn another title shot. He now works as a trainer.

"Ringside Reports" featured a major upset that had long-range ramifications: "Disbelief descended on the German crowd at the Estrel Convention Center when [Vitali] Klitschko, 244, Hamburg, quit on his stool and refused to come out for the 10th round, citing a shoulder injury and handing the fight to [Chris] Byrd, Flint, Michigan," writes Brian Doogan. "The former Olympic silver medalist had taken the bout on 10-days notice following the withdrawal of Razor Ruddock."

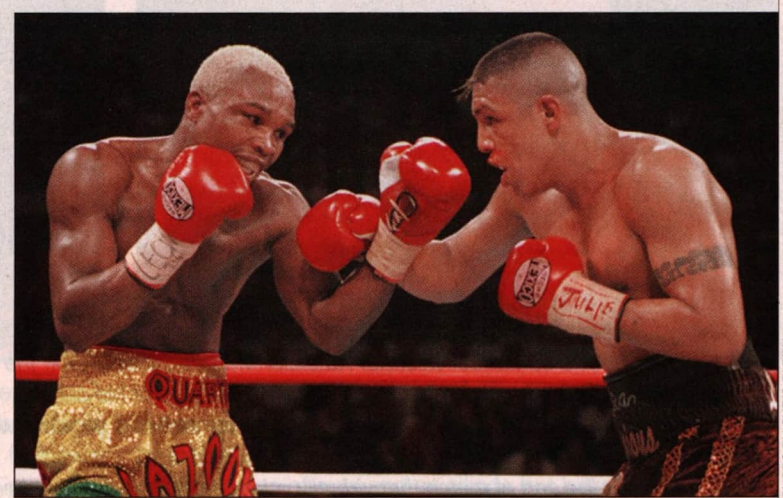
Klitschko underwent an operation on his left rotator cuff and returned to action later that year but had difficulty shedding the "quitter" label.

"New Faces" by Eric Raskin featured Scottish featherweight Scott Harrison, who had recently won his US debut with a 10-round decision over two-division former titleholder Tracy Patterson on the Lewis-Grant card.

"The fading but still dangerous Patterson set the pace early, taking the first round with an aggressive attack that appeared designed to intimidate the younger fighter," writes Raskin. "It didn't work. Harrison dominated from the second round on, boxing beautifully behind his jab and pulling just out of range whenever Patterson loaded up with his right hand."

Harrison went on to twice win the WBO featherweight title and carve out a record of 25-2-1 (14) before his career was derailed in 2005 due to alcohol-fueled problems that resulted in jail time and rehab.

"Fighter Of The Month" honors went to IBF junior middleweight titleholder Fernando Vargas, thanks to his 12-round decision over Ike Quartey in an action-packed fight. The impressive victory extended Vargas' record to 19-0 (17), but, two fights later, he was brutally stopped by Felix Trinidad. ■



Vargas beat Quartey to become Fighter of the Month

PHOTO BY CHRIS FARINA

World Lightweight Championship

Juan Manuel Marquez

Main Event 12 Rounds

Michael Katsidis

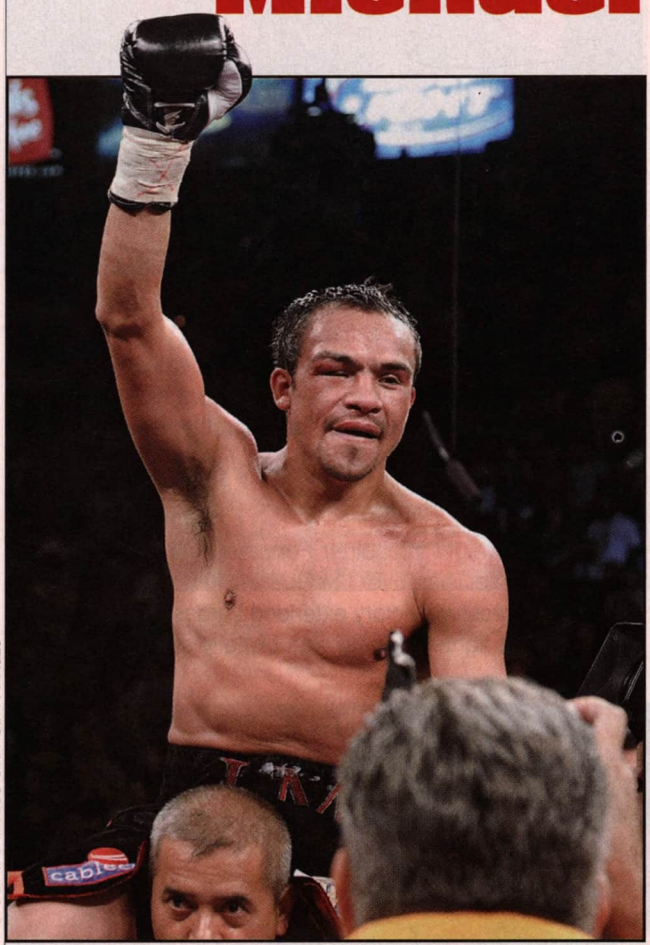


PHOTO BY GABRIEL BOUYS/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

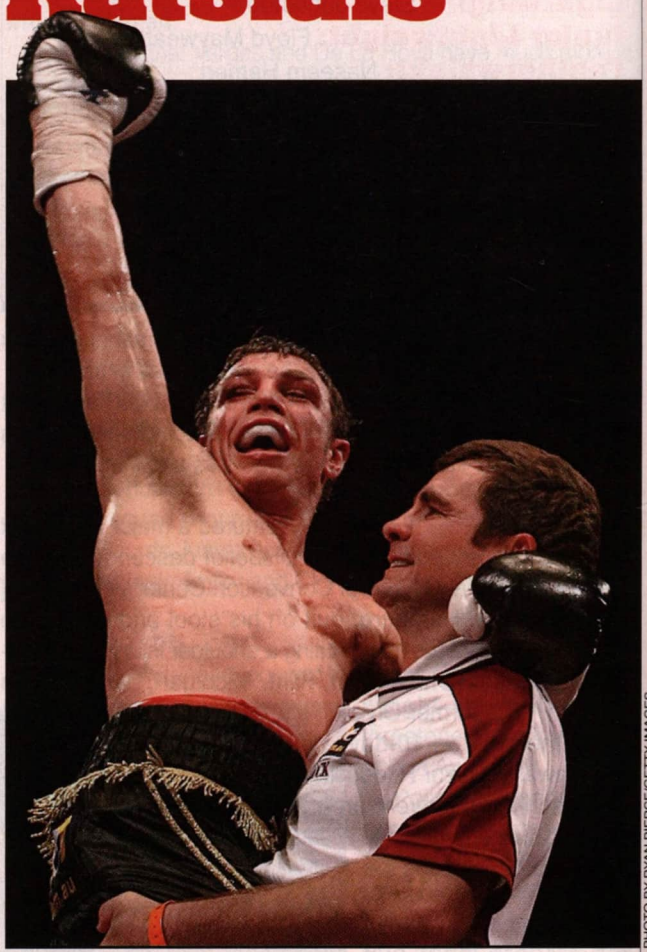


PHOTO BY RYAN PIERCE/GETTY IMAGES

Following a repeat victory over Juan Diaz in his most recent outing, Juan Manuel Marquez had the option of moving up to junior welterweight and taking on Amir Khan or staying at lightweight and defending the championship against number-one contender Michael Katsidis. Marquez wisely took the advice of his trainer Nacho Beristain and decided to stay at lightweight, which is his best weight at this stage of his career.

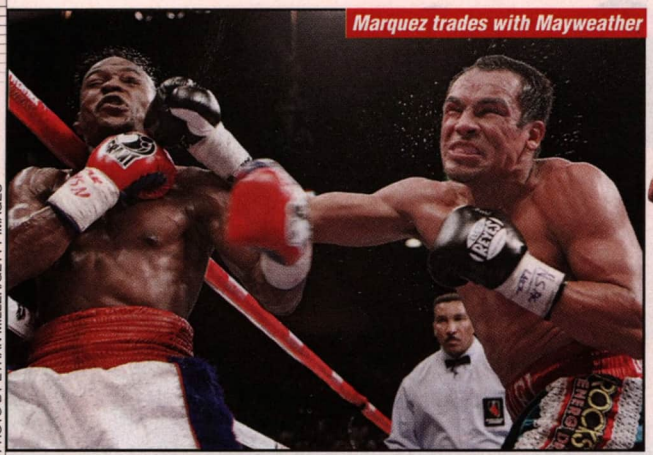
For the hard-charging Katsidis, it's an opportunity to win a genuine world title against an all-time great, knowing that a victory will catapult him into an elite level and bigger purses.

For fans, it's the sort of match that virtually guarantees an action-packed fight. The 12-round bout is scheduled for November 27 at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas.

Juan Manuel Marquez

Michael Katsidis

Record and World Rating



Marquez trades with Mayweather

PHOTO BY ETHAN MILLER/GETTY IMAGES

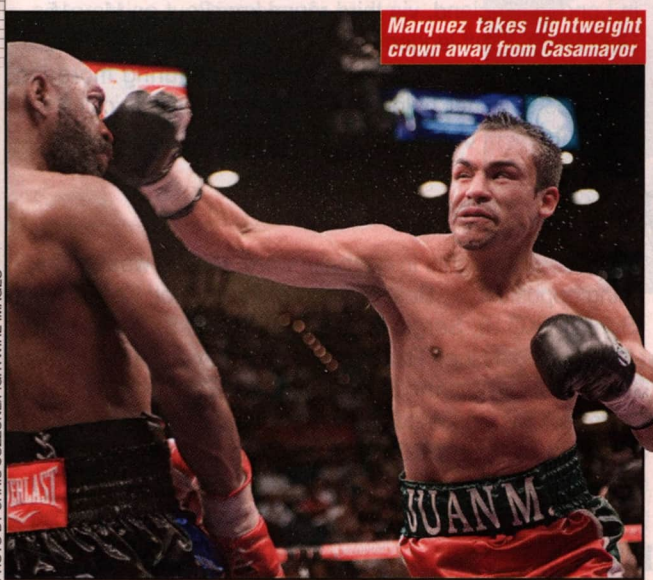
Is 51-5-1 with 37 knockouts ... Had a brief 35-1 amateur career ... Turned pro at age 19 in May 1993 ... Began fighting in the US in '94 ... Won IBF featherweight belt in February 2003 ... Captured WBA featherweight title in November '03 ... Tallied three successful defenses of combined titles ... Lost IBF title in March '05 ... Annexed WBC 130-pound title in March '07 ... Lost WBC trinket in March '08 ... Won THE RING world lightweight championship in September '08 ... Has made two successful defenses ... Recognized as world lightweight champion by THE RING.

Katsidis floors Amonsot in bloody brawl

PHOTO BY ETHAN MILLER/GETTY IMAGES

Is 27-2 with 22 knockouts ... Topped a 75-6 amateur career by representing Australia in 2000 Olymic Games in Sydney, where he failed to medal ... Made pro debut in December 2001, winning Queensland State lightweight title in first bout ... Won Australian lightweight title in second pro outing and Australian junior welterweight belt in ninth start ... Made US debut in July '07 ... Failed in bid to win world lightweight championship in March '08 ... Ranked number one at lightweight by THE RING.

Age and Physical Equipment



Marquez takes lightweight crown away from Casamayor

PHOTO BY CHRIS COZZONE/FIGHTWIRE IMAGES

Is 37 years old ... Stands 5'7" with a 67-inch reach ... A small lightweight who began his career as a featherweight and stayed in the 126-pound division until 2007 ... Rigorous trainer known for coming on strong late in a fight ... Frequency of facial cuts has increased over the years.

Diaz blocks Katsidis' right

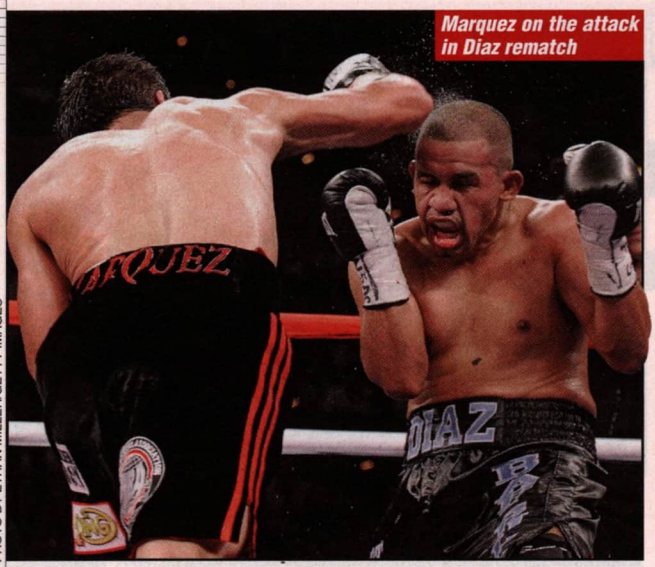
PHOTO BY CHRIS COZZONE/FIGHTWIRE IMAGES

Is 30 years old ... Stands 5'7" with a 66-inch reach ... Powerful, broad-shouldered physique ... Conditioned to fight at a brisk pace with a busy punch rate ... Reckless style results in lots of cuts and swellings but have yet to lead to stoppage ... Quick but not blazing foot and hand speed.

Juan Manuel Marquez

Michael Katsidis

Best Weapons



Marquez on the attack in Diaz rematch

PHOTO BY ETHAN MILLER/GETTY IMAGES

Outstanding boxing technique and years of experience at a world-class level are complemented by a full arsenal of punches … Uppercuts from both sides have become especially effective of late … Left hook to the body remains one of the best in the business.

Katsidis celebrates as ref saves Mitchell

PHOTO BY WARREN LITTLE/GETTY IMAGES

Extremely dangerous puncher with both hands … Capable of ending a fight with one or two clean shots … Never-say-die mentality and ability to absorb punishment can discourage foes … Unfazed by fighting on adversary's home turf.

Previous Fight

Won unanimous decision over Juan Diaz on July 31 by scores of 118-110, 117-111, and 116-112 in a rematch of 2009's Fight of the Year … Solid fight but nowhere near as exciting as ninth-round knockout win in first bout … Proved that neither loss to Floyd Mayweather at welterweight nor dropping back down to lightweight ruined him.

Took apart previously undefeated local hero Kevin Mitchell in London, England, via third-round knockout on May 15 … Sent Mitchell stiff-legged into the ropes with two left hooks in the third round … Follow-up assault, featuring more left hooks, left Mitchell helpless and forced referee to call a halt at 1:57 mark of the third round.

Quality of Opposition

Has been fighting the top men in three divisions for most of his career … Featherweight foes include: Manny Pacquiao (D 12), Manuel Medina (KO 7), Chris John (L 12), Orlando Salido (W 12), Derrick Gainer (Tech. W 7), Agapito Sanchez (W 12), Robbie Peden (KO 10), Victor Polo (W 12) … At junior lightweight: Marco Antonio Barrera (W 12), Rocky Juarez (W 12), Manny Pacquiao (L 12) … At lightweight: Joel Casamayor (KO 11), Juan Diaz (KO 9, W 12).

Most of his fights in Australia were against weak to middling opposition … Best of a run-of-the-mill lot: Kongthawat Sorikitti (KO 9), Sergio Rafael Liendo (KO 8), Ivan Bustos (KO 4), Angel Hugo Ramirez (W 10) … Overseas adversaries far superior, including Graham Earl (KO 5), Czar Amonsot (W 12), Joel Casamayor (KO by 10), Juan Diaz (L 12), Jesus Chavez (KO 8), Vicente Escobedo (W 12), Kevin Mitchell (KO 3).

Defense

Outstanding ability to duck and block shots … Canny footwork also helpful … More aggressive now than earlier in his career, which has led to taking more punishment … Only Pacquiao, who floored him four times in two fights, has seriously tested his sturdy chin.

Face-first fighter whose only defense is his balls-to-the-wall offense and cement chin … Working on improving head movement, but still has a long way to go … Has enough skill to play defense if he wishes, but prefers head-long rush in search of kayo.

Style

Marquez drills Barrera with a right

PHOTO BY CHRIS COZZONE/FIGHTWIRE IMAGES

Master craftsman who has taken a more aggressive approach in recent years in search of greater popularity ... Throws textbook combinations ... Not a knockout artist, but accurate combinations grind down adversaries ... Capable of outboxing most opponents.

Loves to engage ... Crippling power can end fights at any moment ... Has tightened up aggressive approach to a small degree ... Even good punchers have trouble holding him at bay ... Deadly finisher ... Willing to suck up punishment to land his own bombs.

Katsidis had to settle for a split decision win over Escobedo

PHOTO BY CHRIS COZZONE/FIGHTWIRE IMAGES

The Questions

Is this the fight when age and tough fights finally catches up with him? Can he take Katsidis' best shots and stay upright? Will he fade late under relentless pressure? Is he preoccupied with a third match with Pacquiao and looking past the Australian slugger?

Will his face bust up under Marquez' sharp, accurate punches? Can he handle Marquez' technically superior boxing skills? Will he be awestruck by facing a future Hall of Famer? Can he stay fully focused for 12 rounds if required to do so?

The Outcome

If Katsidis lands as frequently as soft-punching Juan Diaz did, Marquez will be in serious trouble. But look for the Mexican to survive some rough patches and dish out enough punishment of his own to win a give-and-take thriller via decision.

By Michael Rivest
PHOTOS BY BRIAN SHUL/GALLERY ONE

Meet Eleven-Year-Old Prodigy Brandun Lee

Have you ever gathered with your buddies to watch the fights and somebody asks how a particular boxer got his start? Meet 11-year-old Brandun Lee. That way, in the distant future, when you watch him dismantle a reigning champion, and your couch copilot asks that question, you can tell him this story. Begin with, "Once upon a time, when Brandun was five years old, he used to go with his parents to his older brother's amateur bouts …"

"He was always a hyper kid," said Bobby Lee, Brandun's father and trainer. "But that was the one place where he'd just sit down and not move a muscle. Boxing was the best baby-sitter you could ask for; he was mesmerized by it.

"He'd always want to get in the ring when Jhong was training, but his mom, Laura, and I would say, 'Yeah, right,' until one day, he jumped in and began going through the moves, spinning out, pivoting, throwing combinations—all done the right way. It was amazing"

In that instant, the Lees realized that Brandun hadn't just been sitting still. He'd been absorbing everything he saw. So Lee started training Brandun, and, within a few months, his eight-year-old son had his first bout.

"It was against a kid who had much more experience," Lee said. "Brandun beat him with only his left hand."

Why just his left?

"That's what I asked him," said his father. "He said I'd told him once that if your left is working, everything is working. So he figured if he could beat the kid with just his left, he'd be set. So he did."

That was 68 amateur bouts ago. By the time Brandun is 17, he could have nearly 200 bouts. Boxing will be as natural to him as tying his shoes. That will also be 2016, a year to which Brandun has charted a course.

"I want to be in the 2016 Olympic Games," he said.

"We'll have to see," his father added, knowing how dramatically teens can change their interests.

Lee is already a three-time National Junior Golden Gloves Champion and has won countless local and state titles. He's quite simply one of the most remarkable young boxers you will ever see. The skill, the mature movement, and the composure under fire are something to behold.

Can you imagine what it must be like for him to show up at his sixth grade show-and-tell class, and, while other kids are proudly displaying their leaf collections, take out his

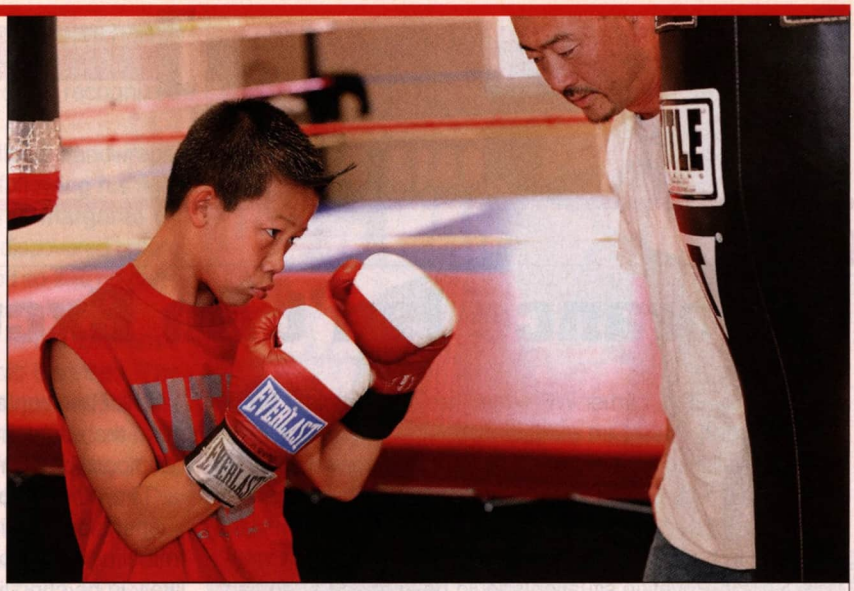
Lee: Seventy-pound whiz kid

National Championship Boxing Trophies and Outstanding Boxer of the Tournament Awards?

"Nobody at school knows I box," he said.

"He's telling the truth," said his mother. "We all decided that it would be best to keep this part of his life separate from school. Otherwise, it could result in him being challenged by the other kids. Besides, it also helps him keep things in perspective. Even the teachers don't know."

That circumstance, however, could soon change if any of them read this magazine. "It's okay. I think we're ready for that now," she said, reflectively. "Brandun's just very comfortable with who he is. He doesn't need to show off his accomplishments."



Brandun's father, Bobby Lee, is also his trainer

If you mention Brandun's name to Dawn Sanchez, she'll have a few stories of her own to tell. As the head of the Junior Golden Gloves National Tournament, she's seen him dominate his weight and age division since 2008. As the Chief of Officials for the State of Nevada, Sanchez has also seen what amateur boxing can mean to young people.

"Like no other sport, amateur boxing gives kids the individual recognition they need," she said. "When you're between the ages of nine and 16, you're always part of a group whether it's a team, a school class, or a club. But boxing is different in that it's about individual achievement. It's about you and only you. Kids need that kind of attention too. Just seeing their faces when they compete, win or lose, you know they're getting something they really need."

"Brandun is destined for great things," said Lee Espinoza, of Southern California's famed Coachella Boxing Club. For the past year and a half, nearly every weekend, Lee has taken the nine-hour trip from Yuba City to Coachella in order to get solid sparring opportunities and to get pointers from Espinoza.

"I think the only thing that could mess him up at this point is, you know, a girlfriend," said Espinoza, laughing.

So what about it, Brandun, do you have a girlfriend?

"Noooo."

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What is it about boxing? Why not football or baseball?

"I like that I'm in there by myself," Brandun said. "I don't like losing, and, if it's just me and the other guy, it's less apt to happen. Besides, boxing and traveling all over lets me spend lots of time with my dad."

And they do travel. Their itinerary reads like a trucker's logbook. Besides the trips to Coachella, Brandun and his father have been on the road most weekends since Brandun was eight.

"When you weigh 70 pounds, you have to go where the bouts are," Lee said, which typically means 12-hour drives to Somewhere, USA. They often get there, go three rounds, then get back in the car and drive home.

"It's what we have to do right now," he added, philosophically.

There are six years until the 2016 Olympics, and just maybe a few more until the night this story comes in handy. ■

USA vs. Italy Dual Meets Results

September 8, 2010, Dual I, Palazzetto Dello Sport Flaminio, Rome, Italy

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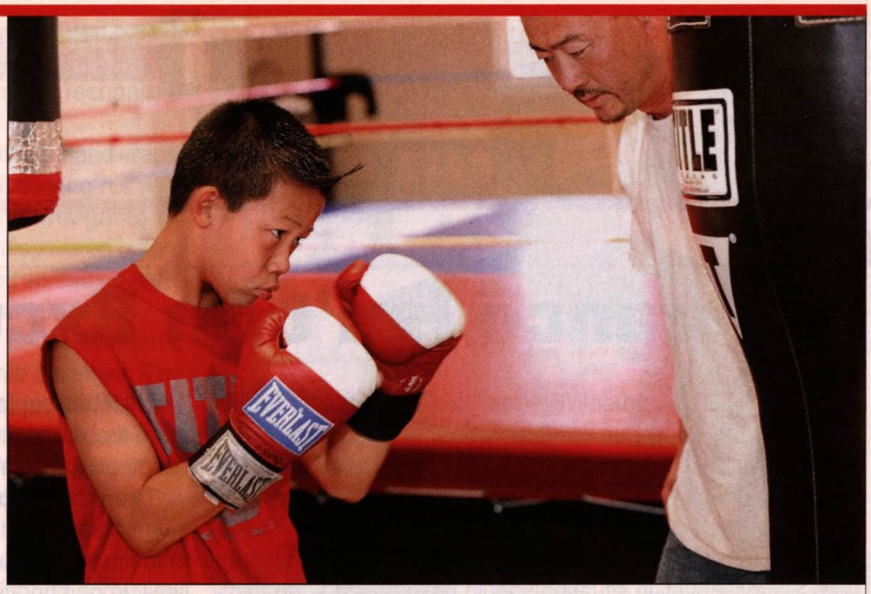

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By Margaret Goodman, M.D.

Ignorance Isn't An Excuse

On July 29th, former WBA heavyweight titleholder Bruce Seldon fought an exhibition bout against Alexander Povetkin in Pennsylvania. Neither the commission nor its executive director, Greg Sirb, knew of the event beforehand.

Undiagnosed gym injuries and unregulated fights are believed to be the greatest contributing factors to ring death. The Seldon-Povetkin situation should have raised a red flag, but no action was taken by Pennsylvania. And none of the Povetkin-Seldon participants, including ESPN commentator Teddy Atlas, who is Povetkin's trainer and served as chief second for the fight, were brought forward. Why?

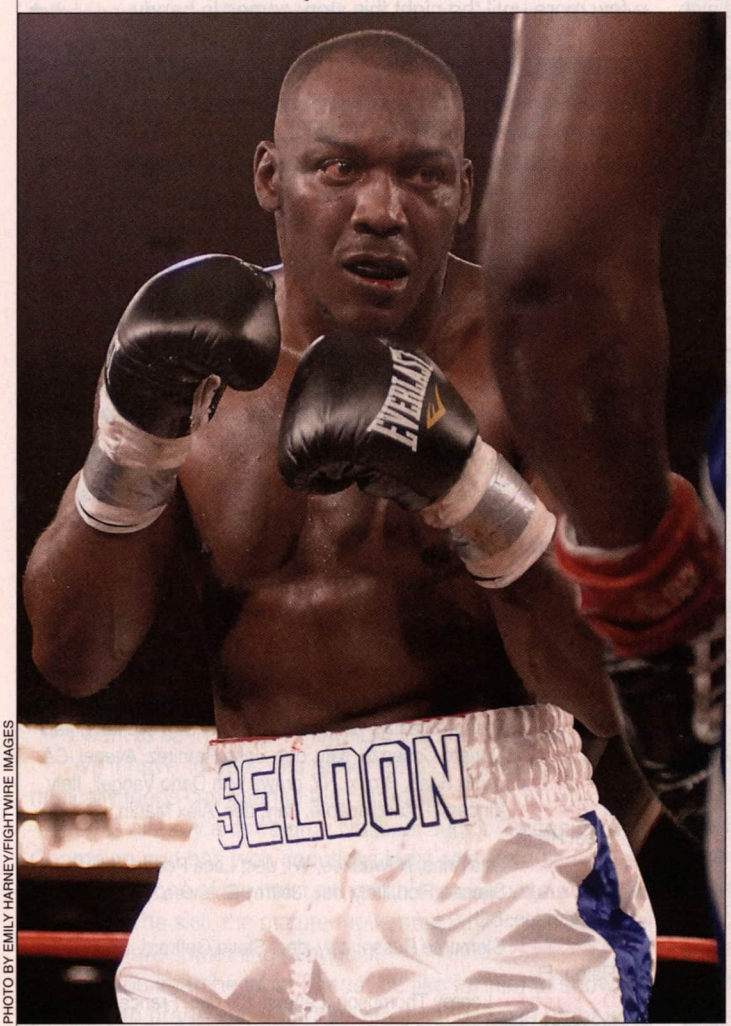


PHOTO BY EMILY HARNEY/FIGHTWIRE IMAGES

Seldon was under suspension when he had pseudo fight with Povetkin

THE RING contacted Sirb, who described the event as no more than a "glorified training session," and he said it would be impossible to monitor gyms for all such occurrences.

The 43-year-old Seldon, who was already on medical suspension by Illinois for a July 2009 positive drug screen following his knockout loss to Fres Oquendo, was most likely in no condition to be in a sparring session, let alone a pseudo fight.

Seldon was knocked down three times in round four by Povetkin, and, according to ringside observers, Seldon was hurt. There were no trained ring physicians on hand and no medical exams. Despite the presence of an ambulance, Seldon was not transported to a hospital for evaluation after the referee stopped the event. Since Pennsylvania categorized this as a sparring session, Seldon never received a medical suspension nor was he required to undergo additional medical examinations.

Recognizing the incident as an unregulated exhibition would have required the Pennsylvania commission to act. Therefore, continuing to label it a sparring session lets everyone off the hook, including the commission, the fighters, and all licensees present, including Atlas and promoter J Russell Peltz.

Atlas continues to profess he wants federal regulation of boxing to safeguard fighters. How could Atlas do this to a boxer in need of protection? Did he not know Seldon was on medical suspension?

Some rationalized this event by saying that Seldon was never hurt. In fact, one source told THE RING that Seldon was there to collect his paycheck and go home—intimating he either feigned injury or was too tired to continue. If this was simply an attempt to build Povetkin's confidence, how could a trainer do something this disingenuous to his own fighter?

If no commission cares to find a way to regulate the gyms, prohibit faux-exhibition matches, or, at the very least, stop gyms and trainers from using suspended boxers, then this is one more reason boxing fails to live up to its potential and ruins its own credibility.

A Behind-the-Scenes Look At Margarito's Texas License

While serving as the Nevada Medical Advisory Board Chairman, I had my share of run-ins with promoters regarding fighter licensure. So, while watching

Antonio Margarito's Texas licensure play out, I recognized there must be more to the story.

Pending an investigation of potentially illegal handwraps, the California State Athletic Commission, following his fight against Shane Mosley, suspended Antonio Margarito on January 24, 2009. The irregular wraps were discovered before the bout, and, since Margarito was rewrapped so that no harm came to his opponent, the fight took place as scheduled.

Afterward, the wraps were forwarded to the California Department of Justice's Bureau of Forensic Services. The analysis detected substances consistent with plaster of Paris. Only gauze and tape are allowed to wrap a fighter's hands.

Margarito's license was revoked at the February 10, 2009, CSAC hearing. At that time, he was informed that he would be eligible to reapply in one year.

Many criticized California's action because the commission did not prove Margarito knew he had adulterated handwraps. However, the California Code of Regulations Boxing Rule 390 stipulates that, "Any licensee who conducts himself or herself at any time or place in a manner which is deemed by the commission to reflect discredit to boxing may have his or her license revoked, or may be fined, suspended, or otherwise disciplined in such manner as the commission may direct."

Others believed that Margarito never had his day in court. That is not true. Margarito challenged the revocation, and Judge David P. Yaffe heard the case on September 10, 2009, in Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles. Judge Yaffe's written decision stated, "The court does not believe petitioner's testimony that he did not know what his trainer was using to wrap his hands with before a fight. Petitioner had used the same trainer for 11 years and was a seasoned professional boxer. The court is convinced that the petitioner knew very well what his trainer was using to wrap his hands."

When there appeared to be no possibility of a Manny Pacquiao-Floyd Mayweather fight this year, Top Rank, Margarito's promoter, wanted him licensed to fight Pacquiao on November 13.

"I was getting calls from commissions that had been approached by Top Rank to hold the fight, including Texas," said Association of Boxing Commission's Vice-President Greg Sirb. "We told Margarito's people there is a precedent that you go back to the state that suspended you. Nevada tabled it [via 4-1 vote], so they tried other states. But even Texas stayed in line."

According to Karen Chappelle, California Supervising Deputy Attorney General, Margarito did not, at that time, contact California for re-licensure (following the culmination of the one-year revocation).

When THE RING asked Sirb why Margarito didn't first approach California, he said it was because the boxer believed he would be turned down.

At that point, Top Rank was in a bind. They needed to get Margarito licensed so they could confirm the venue and begin promoting the event.

PHOTO BY CRAIG BENNETT/FIGHTWIRE IMAGES

Margarito's long, winding road to relicensing ended in Texas

Chappelle, whom I have known since 2003 as someone motivated by fighter safety and protecting the integrity of the sport, said Margarito's people wanted a meeting scheduled immediately. Irrespective of California's decision, the promoter knew Texas would license him and Nevada would vote no.

California was willing to place Margarito on their agenda, but the promoter insisted on an emergency hearing. This type of hearing requires the presence of six commissioners, witnesses, legal counsel, and sufficient time to review the evidence. There also had to be a public notice posted 10 days in advance of the meeting.

The ABC felt compelled to get involved.

"We [ABC] called California and asked them for a speedy hearing," noted Sirb.

On August 18, the CSAC met and denied Margarito a license. Immediately following California's decision, the ABC sent out a notice to all commissions that Margarito could now be considered for licensure. A few days later, Margarito applied in Texas and was approved without a hearing.

Who is the ABC representing? Were they soliciting on behalf of Margarito? And if so, why?

I could list a litany of reasons for federal oversight of boxing. At one time, the ABC and its leaders hoped to be considered as an arm of a federal boxing commission, but the ABC's overzealous involvement in the Margarito situation clearly demonstrates the need for them to reevaluate their role. Boxing commissions who want the federal government to stay out of their way should wake up and beg US Congress for help. ■

By Jim Bagg

Doc Examination

The Baggaboo wishes he could have been a fly on the wall for this pitch meeting: "Remember that horrible joke of a fight between Mike Tyson and Bruce Seldon? It was over in the time it takes for Evander Holyfield to comb his hair, and the first knockdown was the result of a gust of wind. I'm thinking we could make a documentary about it! And we'll give it a really uninteresting title, something like *One Night In Vegas*! Maybe people will be misled and get excited, thinking it's a documentary focusing on how long Corey Feldman's Sin City one-man show lasted. And, hey, the 14th anniversary is coming up—that's a big one, right?—so

PHOTO BY STEPHEN LOVEKIN/GETTY IMAGES

Tyson and daughter, Milan, attend* One Night In Vegas *premiere with director Reggie Rock Blythewood

we can air it on that date and it'll be super significant. Who's on board?"

Believe it or not, as bad as that fictional pitch is, the actual documentary that aired on September 7 as part of ESPN's *30 For 30* series was even worse. Though ostensibly about the night when Tyson fought Seldon and then Tupac Shakur (supposedly some great rapper, though the Notorious B.A.G.G. couldn't name one song he sung) was shot, this was basically a hip-hop documentary aired on a sports channel. Shakur was the primary focus. Tyson played a supporting role—and, in his current "at peace with the universe" state, provided some monumentally boring talking head analysis.

There were two boxing docs in this 30-film series, and the other, the equally lamely named *Muhammad And Larry*, was one of the series' best. That's because the footage of title characters Ali and Holmes preparing for their fight was compelling enough to carry the movie. In the case of *One Night In Vegas*, the footage was anything but compelling, which was why the director had to get creative with an awkward and embarrassing spoken-word poetry device and spent about half the movie recapping the life of Shakur. There were other problems, such as the fact that the documentary ignored the controversy over Seldon possibly taking a dive, the fact that the Tyson-Tupac friendship seemed not to be all that deep, and the fact that unbearable blowhard Col. Bob Sheridan appeared in the film. But ultimately, the film's failure came down to the simple fact that you can't build an entertaining documentary around a boxing event as forgettable as Tyson vs. Seldon.

All in all, two thumbs down. And that's not just because it's so much easier for the Baggarooney to get his appendages to go down than up nowadays.

PHOTO BY JED JACOBSOHN/GETTY IMAGES

Tapia: One of the most dynamic boxers of his era

Look, this *30 For 30* thing is a cool idea, having 30 different filmmakers make documentaries about a wide variety of subjects from the past 30 years (the ESPN era). And most of the movies have been damned good. (*The Two Escobars*, for example, was exceptional, even though it was largely about soccer.) And the Baggapalooza isn't going to complain that boxing got short shrift. Two movies out of 30 is a fair number for the Sweet Science. The problem is that one of those two docs was about an unworthy subject.

So the Baggamaniac is here to offer alternatives, subjects that would have made for much more powerful documentaries than *One Night In Vegas*. Here are the ground rules: Only the last 30 years are eligible, and we'll rule out anything about which a major documentary has been made. So if HBO covered it in *Legendary Nights*, for example, the Baggumentarian will leave it off the list.

With that, here are some documentary subjects that blow away *One Night In Vegas* every bit as easily as Tyson disposed of Seldon:

Bernard Hopkins vs. Felix Trinidad: There wasn't a 9/11 doc in the *30 For 30* series, and, considering it was the biggest news event of the last three decades, maybe there should have been. Well, this is the sporting event that ties in best with the September 11 terrorist attacks. It took place in New York City just 18 days after 9/11, and emotions were running so high that somehow Puerto Rico became the enemy and an ex-con with a Primo Carnera-sized chip on his shoulder became worthy of "U-S-A! U-S-A!" chants. It was a magnificent performance by Hopkins and a stirring night thanks to its timing, plus there were controversies to explore, from Trinidad's hand wraps to that not-so-mysteriously absent Sugar Ray Robinson trophy. Add in all the sound bytes the filmmaker would get from B-Hop, and the documentary practically makes itself.

Johnny Tapia: HBO has explored Tapia extensively on *Real Sports*, but those were a collection of 12-minute snippets, not a full doc. And boy is this guy ever worthy of an hour—or 50—of examination. To call his childhood a train

wreck casts train wrecks in an unfairly negative light. His drug problems have been well-documented. This guy's life has been so wild, he makes Jake LaMotta look like Fred McMurray. And through it all, he was one of the most dynamic boxers of his era. If Ricky Williams' personal struggles are worthy of a *30 For 30*, then Tapia's sure as heck are.

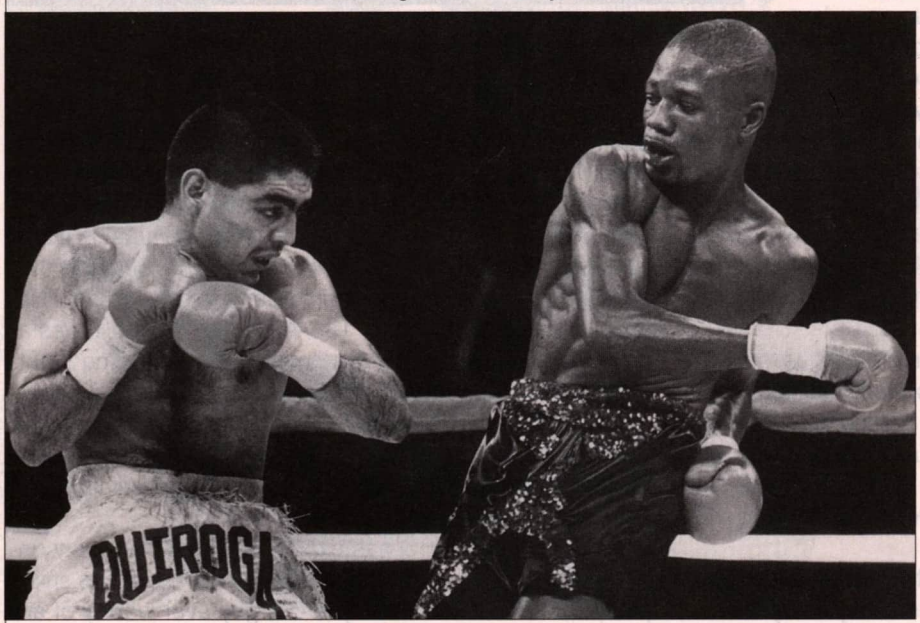
Mills Lane's bizarre heavyweight title fight resume: *30 For 30* has focused at times on the "wow, did that really happen?" moments, such as the O.J. car chase and Michael Jordan playing minor league baseball. But there's nothing in sports more surreal than referee Lane standing at center ring for Fan Man, the Bite Fight, Oliver McCall's crying, and Henry Akinwande's hugging. Either Evander Holyfield-Riddick Bowe II or Holyfield-Tyson II could have been its own *30 For 30*, but Lane is the perfect hook to connect them, along with other nights that ended in you-couldn't-have-scripted-it fashion.

Chacon signs to fight Danny Lopez (right), as promoter Aileen Eaton looks on with approval

Bobby Chacon: If you're looking for a combination of heart-wrenching outside-the-ring drama and spine-tingling inside-the-ring thrills, "The Schoolboy's" story is as good as anybody's from the last 30 years. He was in two Fights of the Year and countless more that came close, and, when you wrap those around the story of his wife committing suicide because Chacon wouldn't quit boxing and Bobby going out and winning a fight the next day, you have the basis for a morose masterpiece.

George Foreman's second career: Okay, this was sort of covered on *Legendary Nights* when they told the tale of Foreman vs. Michael Moorer, but there was much more to Foreman's comeback than that one fight. And when you're the Bagglestiltskin's age, you never get tired of watching old, fat, bald people defy the odds. The Baggster drinking an entire bottle of tequila and then urinating without hitting the toilet seat qualifies, but ESPN would have trouble spinning that into an hour-long documentary. So let's go with Foreman instead.

Robert Quiroga vs. Akeem Anifowoshe: Nearly two decades after it happened, the 1991 RING Fight of the Year doesn't get nearly as much play as it should—maybe because it's too depressing to talk about. But "depressing" can be a documentarian's best friend. The fight was a classic war, and since most mainstream sports fans have never seen the footage, that could be the foundation of the film right there. But there have been lots of great fights in the last 30 years. What makes this one special, sadly, is the aftermath. Anifowoshe suffered brain damage in the fight, wasn't allowed to box again, and his life spiraled down until he died three years later. Quiroga fared better initially but was murdered by the side of the road in 2004. It's a downer, but, hey, *The Two Escobars* didn't have such a happy ending either.



Both Quiroga and Anifowoshe met tragic ends

The Arturo Gatti-Micky Ward trilogy: If you've followed boxing even a little bit this decade, you know why this is *30 For 30*-worthy without the Baggalicious explaining it to you. The objective for ESPN is simple: Get to it before *Legendary Nights* does. Between the incomparable action, Gatti's unsolved death a few years later, and Ward having his life turned into a Mark Wahlberg movie, there's plenty to cover here, so ESPN better jump on it before Liev Schreiber's honey-dipped voice stakes its claim.

The Monthly Mailbagg

A few issues ago, we had the first ever two-time Stingray winner. This issue, we have the first ever e-mail from a two-time Stingray winner (plus an additional e-mail from a non-Stingray-winner just for the hell of it):

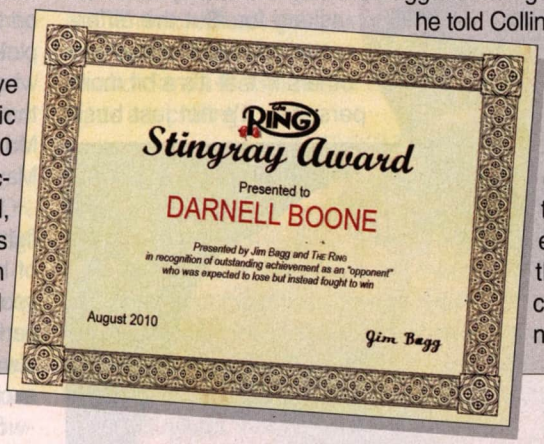
Mr. Bagg,

I'm writing you to give thanks for recognizing my accomplishments in this cold boxing game and to let you know I appreciate how you wrote the article in THE RING magazine. I would like to call out some of the top champs. I feel they have no heart and they are scared. I just want to do this so I can keep on upsetting these no-talent, no-heart, hiding-behind-their-promoters, so-called fighters. Give me the same amount of time to get ready as everybody else and I'll beat anybody they put in my face. They never give me time to train, they always call me on short notice. I want my shot. Give me time, and I'll beat any champ from 160 to 168, believe that. So who's gonna step up? I'm calling y'all out. I have the heart of 50 men. And the fight with Andre Ward, I fought him on a week's notice and look what happened, so just think if I had six or eight weeks to train. Don't nobody want to recognize me, but I'll make them notice.

Darnell "The Truth" Boone

Darnell,

Interesting that you say you have the heart of 50 men. The Baggtastic happens to have the prostate of 50 men. Anyway, congrats on your second Stingray, it was well deserved, and your official Stingray certificates have been mailed off and are on their way to you. (Reminder to all Stingray winners: Just send your mailing address to Baggmeister@yahoo.com to request your certificates.) As for your open invitation for opponents, you've come to the right place. Everybody who's anybody reads "Hitting On The Break." So somebody step up, give Boone time to train, and maybe you'll earn an "I stung the Stingray!" certificate.



Dear Marvelous Jim Baggler,

They should create a new system called Crap-u-Box. It'll be a computer system that counts how many excuses fly out a losing fighter's mouth right after he utters the phrase "I don't want to make any excuses." Daniel Jacobs is off to a great start after blaming his loss to Dmitry Pirog on the death of his grandmother. Wasn't there one boxer who pulled off, oh, I don't know, the biggest upset in boxing history just weeks after his mother died?

Keep on Baggin',
Ricardo Oliveras
Trenton, NJ

Ricardo,

Sadly, the Baggomatic is in no position to talk here. When Boss Collins asked for this column to be filed a week ago, and the Baggalamadingdong hadn't even started writing yet, he told Collins, "No excuses, but the Baggenbrau has a nasty cramp in his typing finger. But no excuses. And the sun is in his eyes. But no excuses. And he's reeling from the death of his grandmother, which is still an emotional subject 62 years later. But no excuses. Oh, and he got sidetracked thinking of excuses, otherwise the column would be done by now. But no excuses."

All Name, No Game

At the end of semi-hyped British heavyweight Tyson Fury's US TV debut against Rich Power on *ShoBox* in September, the Baggriculture had to ask the question: Is his name a greater insult to the name "Tyson" or the word "fury"? If the Baggformer were tasked with renaming this stiff, he'd be torn between "McNeeley Klutzy" and "Savarese Sloth."

And The Stingray Goes To ...

Our first ever award winner from the Far East, middleweight Fukutaro Ujiie, who shocked hot prospect Tomohiro Ebisu via fourth-round kayo in September. No word on whether the Tokyo-based Ujiie has ever made a handroll for Floyd Mayweather. But he demonstrated against Ebisu that he could definitely roll a guy with his hands.

Ten-year veteran Ujiie came in with a record of 15-7-1 (10) and was expected to provide little resistance against the 22-year-old Ebisu, who came in with seven quick knockout wins in seven fights. Ebisu got off to a strong start, but Ujiie broke from the script in the fourth round and Ebisu caved the moment he met with resistance. Ujiie scored more knockdowns than there are consonants in his last name—two, to be precise—and earned the upset win at 2:59 of the fourth.

In honor of Mayweather's racist rants and Ujiie's victory, the Baggstrocity is inventing a sushi dish called the Stingray Roll. It looks ordinary on the outside but is packed with wasabi and has the potential to overwhelm you. ■

Jim Bagg can be reached at Baggmeister@yahoo.com.

[Come Out Writing]

Letters may be edited for reasons of space and clarity. Send your comments to Come Out Writing, THE RING, P.O. Box 114, Blue Bell, PA 19422.

Or e-mail letters to comeoutwriting@yahoo.com. E-mailed letters will include the writer's e-mail address unless a city and state of origin is provided.

Waiting For The "Urge"

I think Floyd Mayweather is succumbing to all the negativity surrounding him. He used to feed off it, but it's more than he can chew this time and his guilt is causing him to make bad decisions. This is actually the usual cycle he lives in order to get motivated and fuel his urge to fight. Manny Pacquiao fans should really be afraid for their guy because Floyd meant it when he said he doesn't have the urge. While he goes about finding clarity, his thoughts are going to become fixated on one thing: Pacquiao. Floyd knows this will be his opportunity to once again make naysayers, critics, and fans alike look stupid and give everyone exactly what they've been asking for. But the difference between this time and others is that it's a bit more personal. It's not just business anymore, like when he fought Shane Mosley or Zab Judah. This time, it's about proving something and making a real statement about how the world has been wrong and that he truly is the best. Pacquiao is going to give that to him. Trust me. Manny is going to be the one that pays big. I doubt he'll ever be the same afterwards. Anyone else sense that urge coming?

TYI FALLS
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PHOTO BY JED JACOBSOHN/GETTY IMAGES

Floyd Mayweather said that he was waiting for the "urge" before fighting Manny Pacquiao, which reader Tyi Falls believes should have Pacquiao and his fans worried. How Mayweather's legal problems will affect his "urge" to fight remains to be seen.

The Customer Is Always Right

I just read Nigel Collins' column on RingTV.com, titled "The Horns Of A Dilemma" (which also appeared in the November 2010 issue of THE RING) about how boxing fans will give the final verdict on the Pacquiao-Margarito fight. I completely agree with him. There are writers who readily bash Margarito but forget that this could be a good fight. After all, Margarito is one of the fighters Floyd Mayweather ducked.

Pac-Man always said that he would fight whomever his promoter put in front of him. So, to attach any negative responsibility to Pacquiao for fighting Margarito is simply garbage to me. Pac-Man always does his best to give the fans the excitement they want to see in a fight.

Some writers say this fight is *not* what the fans want. Well, ultimately, like Mr. Collins wrote, the fans will give their verdict come fight night. I am anticipating Mr. Collins' editorial after the fight.

BOJIM ROSAVILLAS
mightythorjack@yahoo.com

Where's Marquez?

First, I want to say I'm a big fan of THE RING, but I was very surprised to see no lightweight fighters included in your "All-Star Report Card" section in the October 2010 issue. I can understand that the division is going through a change, with many fighters such as Juan Diaz and Joel Casamayor either leaving the divi-

Juan Manuel Marquez lands an uppercut en route to retaining the world lightweight championship against Juan Diaz. Reader Dan Cook wonders why Marquez was not among the 20 fighters included in THE RING's October All-Star Report Card issue.

PHOTO BY GABRIEL BOUYS/GETTY IMAGES

sion or on the decline. But to leave out reigning champion Juan Manuel Marquez is absurd. The guy has been consistently at the top of the sport for many years, defeating a string of world-class opponents, and even gave Manny Pacquiao his toughest fights. How can he not be considered an all-star?

DAN COOK
London, UK

Editor's note: The All-Star Report Card was compiled before Juan Manuel Marquez won his rematch with Juan Diaz. Therefore, THE RING was unsure of how much Marquez had left following the loss to Floyd Mayweather. If Marquez continues to fight as well as he did in the second Diaz bout, he may very well qualify for next year's All-Star Report Card.

Telling The Truth

I want to compliment THE RING magazine staff, from the editor to the writers, for finally writing the truth about the in-the-ring conduct of referee Arthur Mercante Jr., in the September 2010 issue. The Mercante name and halo-protection of his father's name seems to prevent many from telling the truth. The Miguel Cotto-Yuri Foreman fight is the tip of the iceberg. The memories of his handling of Razor Ruddock-Michael Dokes, Pernell Whitaker-Diosebelys Huertado, Lennox Lewis-Michael Grant, and George Khalid Jones-Beethaeven Scottland fights are chilling.

SCOTT COLTRANE
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Odious Comparison

Nothing makes my skin crawl more than hearing comparisons between boxers and mixed martial artists. Comparing boxing with MMA is like comparing soccer with hockey. The principles of soccer and hockey are the same, with players trying to send an object into a netted goal. However, hockey players do it with five-foot wooden sticks and large razors on the bottoms of their shoes, while traveling on a slick surface. One sport is more violent by design and cannot be compared with the other.

In the UFC, fighters can receive a cash prize greater than their purse for earning the "Fight Of The Night" or "Knockout Of The Night" award. If we learned anything from the abomination that is Pacquiao vs. Margarito, it is much easier to make the bigger, more competitive fight if the entire sport were under one promotion, something the UFC enjoys. Recently, Dana White publicly admonished his number-one pound-for-pound fighter for not delivering an action fight with a knockout against Demian Maia. Throw in the four-ounce gloves, the kicking, elbows, a cage, and a bunch of screaming fans with a bloodlust and you have a human cockfight.

Sportswriters are going to take the results of UFC 118, make the comparisons, and then rank MMA fighters over boxers. If you count taking a goldfish out of its bowl and watching it suffocate on dry ground, then yes, Couture-Toney was a victory for the UFC.

RICHARD ESCOTO
Monterey Park, CA

Wrong Promoter

Your profile on Mikkel Kessler in the October 2010 issue ("All Star Report Cards") mentions that his promotional duties are handled by Team Palle. This is not so, as Kessler has been promoted by Sauerland Event for the past year.

RICH DELGADO
richd787@gmail.com

Editor's note: You're quite right, Rich. Sauerland Event does indeed currently promote Kessler. Thanks for pointing out the error. ■

Looking Ahead

By Don Stradley

Showtime Announces Bantamweight Tournament

PHOTO BY CHRIS COZZONE/FIGHTWIRE IMAGES

Perez and Agbeko to fight rematch in Showtime tourney

The headaches brought on by Showtime's "Super Six" tournament haven't deterred the cable network from launching a second tournament, this time focusing on the bantamweight class.

Vic Darchinyan, **Yonnhy Perez**, **Joseph Agbeko**, and **Abner Mares** will be bringing their talents to the single-elimination tourney set to begin December 11 in Leon, Mexico, with Darchinyan facing Mares, and 118-pound titlist Perez facing Agbeko in a rematch—Perez defeated Agbeko for the IBF belt last year. The winners of the two bouts will meet sometime in 2011. Even if the pairings weren't packaged as a "tournament," these are fights we'd like to see. Perez, Mares, and Agbeko are ranked fourth, fifth, and sixth at 118, respectively, by THE RING. Darchinyan is ranked first at junior bantam.

Of the four, Darchinyan, 35-2-1 (27), is the most accomplished, but he occasionally forgets to bring his A-game. The WBA and WBC junior bantamweight titlist seemed distracted and uninspired when he lost to Agbeko in 2009, but his most recent bout was a punishing, 12-round points win over journeyman **Eric Barcelona**. Agbeko, 27-2 (22), is another talented fighter who can have off nights, as we saw against Perez, but he's a gutsy competitor who likes to bang. As for Perez, 20-0-1 (14), and Mares 20-0-1 (13), they put their undefeated records on the line against each other last May on the undercard of **Israel Vazquez**-**Rafael Marquez** IV, fighting to an intense 12-round draw.

It's hard to pick a favorite. Darchinyan and Agbeko are the warhorses with brawling mentalities, while Perez and Mares are the quicker, boxer-punchers. There's a feeling among early prognosticators that Darchinyan may struggle with Mares and that Perez will again outclass Agbeko, meaning the final may be a rematch of the Perez-Mares draw. If so, it would be the fifth time those two have fought since they had three encounters during their amateur days.

Regardless of who goes into the final, Showtime and boxing fans are going to be winners. As Mares told the Associated Press, "Boxing fans know that the little guys always make for the best fights, and this tournament is guaranteed to prove that again."

Showtime is moving quickly on this one, getting the opening rounds out of the way in one night, unlike the Super Six, which has begun to feel like a long, unforgiving slog. Showtime seems to have learned that navigating six fighters to a finish is a difficult task, for injuries have caused two fighters to bow out totally, and **Carl Froch**'s bout with **Arthur Abraham** has been postponed due to Froch's ailing back. It has been rescheduled for November 27 in Helsinki, Finland, as part of a split-site doubleheader, which will also feature **Andre Ward** vs. **Andre Dirrell** at an American venue that had not been determined as of press time. The bantamweights, hopefully, will be less problematic.

Listen Up

Zab Judah is returning to HBO on November 6 to face undefeated **Lucas Matthysse** at the Prudential Center in Newark in a junior welter bout. Judah has won three in a row since losing to **Joshua Clottey** in 2008, including a second-round knockout of veteran **Ubaldo Hernandez** and a third-round stoppage of **Jose Armando Santa Cruz**. Judah, who will be 33 by fight night, is hoping to establish himself as a force at 140, even though he's already been a champion at 147. Meanwhile, Matthysse will be trying to show that his sparkling knockout record—25 of his 27 wins have ended inside the distance—is for real. His last bout was a premature stoppage of **Vivian Harris**, which might not have made believers out of people seeing him for the first time.

Undefeated welterweight **Mike Jones** will make a major step towards recognition on November 13 when he takes on **Jesus Soto Karass** on the **Manny Pacquiao-Antonio Margarito** undercard ... Cruiserweights **Danny Green** and **B.J. Flores** are to square off on November 17 in Perth, Australia ... The Showtime bantamweight tourney will have some direct competition on December 11 when WBA 140-pound titlist **Amir Khan** meets **Marcos Maidana** on rival network HBO. ■

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